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Libya

The Irish Republican Army (IRA) has threatened to kill Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, members of his family, and "a number of Libyan officials," according to sources in Cairo cited by ROSE AL-YUSUF. The threats came in the wake of reports that Libya released documents with information about the IRA.

Israel

The government takes a "very serious view" of a "flaunted" meeting between Yasir 'Arafat and members of the Palestinian peace talks delegation in Amman on 18 June, according to an official cited by Jerusalem radio. Prime Minister Shamir's media adviser called it "another stage in the series of provocations" by the Palestinians. Police chief Roni Milo said Faysal al-Husayni and Hanan 'Ashrawi "will be arrested as soon as they return to Israel," according to the radio. While Meretz called on the government to "refrain from taking any steps," Knesset members from the Moledet and Tehiya parties demanded that the Palestinians be arrested. Palestinian delegate 'Ashrawi was cited as saying: "We will continue to meet with PLO officials openly, and Israel must understand that this is a fact."

Jordan

Amman TV reported the Palestinian delegates' arrival in Amman 18 June for a meeting with PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat and other members of the PLO leadership. Delegation leader Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi said the team would meet with PLO officials to assess the peace process, discuss "the latest developments," and draw up "a future strategy." Top-level Palestinian-Jordanian coordination meetings would also be held, he said.

Islamic Affairs

The ICO foreign ministers urged the UN Security Council to consider military action in Bosnia-Hercegovina if economic sanctions fail to stop Serbian attacks, Ankara ANATOLIA reported. The Bosnian foreign minister said he was "satisfied with the resolution, but we will have to see about its results," according to Ankara TV. At the conclusion of the meeting, the ICO foreign ministers issued a joint news release condemning the Serbian attacks on Bosnia-Hercegovina, Ankara radio reported.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Damascus Declaration Signatories To Meet 9 Sep

NC1806201792 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] The Damascus Declaration signatories agreed to hold the next foreign ministers meeting in Doha on 9 September to discuss the declaration's implementation.

Following a meeting among the foreign ministers of the eight countries in Istanbul today, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said it was agreed to meet in Doha and to implement the declaration.

Qatari Foreign Minister Mubarak al-Khatir said the meeting will have special significance, because it stands for Arab unity. He added that the Damascus Declaration embodies all Arab aspirations. We are on the verge, he said, of adopting the necessary measures to implement the declaration's articles and provisions. The implementation will be executed by carrying out all the bilateral and integral projects agreed among all the signatories, he said.

Minister Musa met with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, who said that the meeting was part of the constant coordination and consultation between the kingdom and Egypt. He said these meetings will help realize the aspirations of both peoples and the Arab nation.

Libyan Committees' Attitude on Egypt Criticized

NC1806134992 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 12 Jun 92 p 14

[From Samir Rajab's "Dividing Lines" column: "On the Contrary—You Are Racketeering's Kings; The Libyan Economy Lost Its Pillars Long Ago"]

[Text] Since the Libyan regime changed Libya's name to the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, it has tried to delude the world that the people represented on what they call the revolutionary committees practice government authority. The world knows these committees have no authority and that they move according to the leadership's will and desire.

The Libyan people are not ignorant about events around them. The evidence is that they dealt with the revolutionary committees warily, out of their belief that they do not express their views, hopes, or problems.

When the revolutionary committees today wage a bitter attack on Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi just before the General People's Congress convenes, a congress that the colonel himself will address tomorrow, there is one of two possibilities.

The first is that it is merely a theater that al-Qadhdhafi agreed to prepare and direct to set the stage for a specific stand of which the committees were informed so that they would applaud and cheer him afterward.

The second possibility is that the colonel has actually lost control and 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud has succeeded in realizing his longed-for wish. He has now become the person who plans, directs, and controls the revolutionary committees.

Whether events are occurring with or without the knowledge of al-Qadhdhafi, we are concerned about the revolutionary committees' impudence in attacking the Arabs in general and Egypt in particular. They claimed the United States is better and that gambling on the Islamic bond is no longer useful. They reasoned that it is the right of the workers in the United States—more so than Arab workers—to use Libya's oil.

The revolutionary committee members then become even more rude and perverse when they address al-Qadhdhafi, claiming that "we marched behind you, destroying gateways. They taught us how to be racketeers and how to trade in currency. They turned us into markets for contraband goods. We were given the excuses that these are unavoidable sacrifices. There you were depleting our economy for their sake."

Their hearts pump grudges and reveal the bitterness that we in Egypt have long sensed.

If, as they claim, they marched behind their president tearing down gates, they must remember that we were and still are opposed to opening the borders, because we know very well the problems this creates. They smuggle all kinds of goods—ungrateful people, exporters of terrorism, people with no morals. How many times have we postponed opening doors. After their tiresome insistence, we were forced to accept that they would learn from our experience, which is based on true values, morality, reverence for tradition and norms, and respect for foreigners.

They are the masters of racketeering, the geniuses of deviation. The suffering of our sons in Tripoli, Banghazi, and Tobruk is the best evidence and most expressive proof of this—our sons are paying with their sweat, hard work, and efforts. What is really annoying is that the Egyptians working in Libya trusted their brothers and friends who came to their homes in Egypt only to cheat their families and seize their money, food, clothing, and jewelry.

Anyway, what economy are they talking about?

The Libyan economy lost its basic pillars years ago when the oil resources were squandered on so many things which, if we mentioned them today, would only complicate their problems with the West. We do not want to do that.

The contraband markets existed there long before the borders were opened. There was no exporting, importing, or industry. Even when they deluded themselves into believing they were actually producing electrical equipment, they were satisfied just to indicate that this equipment was made in Libya.

Undoubtedly, Libya has the right to change its policy if it believes this would realize its people's hopes and to implement internal measures, such as the takeover by

some members of the revolutionary committees of the news agency and dismissal of its manager and the takeover of its AL-FAJR AL-JADID newspaper.

To have the news agency, newspaper, radio, television, and AL- JAMAHIRIYAH newspaper specialize in attacking Egypt is something we cannot keep quiet about whatever the circumstances. I believe the Libyan regime knows very well that we can respond with evidence, proof, argument, and reasons, especially on 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud, who has often been incapable of keeping up with our rational discussions with him, through which we have revealed his games and repeated attempts to create problems between our two peoples.

We know the General People's Congress, which they describe as the Higher Libyan Council, will convene at 1000 tomorrow morning. It will issue unexpected decisions.

If, in this conference and in response to the revolutionary committees' set piece, they intend to follow a different policy on the handover of the two suspects in the Lockerbie airliner case, that is their business.

If this new policy produces a violent reaction from 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud and his allies, this is also their internal affair.

We strongly warn you against implicating Egypt's name or harming its people, because the good deeds performed by these people's white hands cannot be denied. Without them, there would be no revolutionary committees, new dawn, or even a Jamahiriyah.

Islamic Affairs

Further on ICO Proceedings in Istanbul

UN Military Action Urged

TA1806160492 Ankara ANATOLIA in English 1535 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] Istanbul, June 18 (AA)—Islamic foreign ministers on Thursday urged the United Nations to consider military action if economic sanctions fail to stop Serbian attacks on Bosnia.

The Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) decided in a two-day emergency meeting in Istanbul to ask the Security Council to invoke UN Charter provisions for the use of force if the embargo imposed on Belgrade in May proved ineffective. OIC foreign ministers said Serbian authorities were responsible for what they called atrocities committed against Bosnian Muslims by Serbian regular and irregular units and for blocking delivery of food and relief supplies. The OIC resolution voiced alarm at the critical situation in Bosnia and at a possible spread of fighting to other Balkan flashpoints, such as Serbia's mainly-Albanian Kosovo region.

The OIC urged its 47 members not to recognise the rump Yugoslav State of Serbia and Montenegro as successor to the old Yugoslavia until Belgrade had recognised the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Bosnia-Hercegovina. It demanded that the Serb-dominated Yugoslav Federal Army be withdrawn from Bosnia or be disarmed and disbanded along with Serbian irregulars and other armed elements. The Islamic ministers asked the Security Council to make existing U.N. peace-keeping efforts in Bosnia more effective. They decided to set up an OIC-Islamic development bank program for humanitarian and reconstruction aid to Bosnia, but the resolution contained no specific financial pledges.

Over 6,000 people have been killed, 22,000 wounded and an estimated one million made homeless since civil war crupted in April between Serbs opposed to Bosnian independence and their Muslim and Croat foes. Serbs, who make up about one third of the population, have seized two-thirds of Bosnia's territory.

Saudi, Egyptian Ministers on UN Resolution

TA1806200292 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1700 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] The foreign ministers of certain Islamic countries who attended the ICO meeting in Istanbul replied to our questions about the possibility of military intervention in Bosnia-Hercegovina and what their countries would do if the UN Security Council passed such a resolution.

[Begin recording] [Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz al Sa'ud, in English with superimposed Turkish translation] It is not enough to watch over a cease-fire. In fact, there is no cease-fire in Bosnia-Hercegovina. The important thing is to achieve peace. The UN Security Council must take more effective measures. The thing to do is to prevent the Serbian troops from settling in Bosnia-Hercegovina. If the UN Security Council decides on intervention, the Muslim countries will assume their responsibility and participate. [end recording]

[Begin recording] [Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, in French with superimposed Turkish translation] The people of Bosnia-Hercegovina who believe that the sanctions imposed by the UN Security Council are insufficient want the Security Council to pass another resolution. The resolution adopted by the Islamic Conference Organization foreign ministers refers to that issue. If the Security Council decides on intervention, it must be abided by. It is not a matter of what Egypt or another country would do. Egypt can decide on whether or not it will participate only when the situation becomes final. [end recording]

Bosnian Minister on Resolution

TA1806194692 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1700 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Interview with Haris Silajdzic, Bosnian foreign minister, by unidentified correspondent in Istanbul on 18 June—recorded, in English with superimposed Turkish translation]

[Text] [Correspondent] The ICO draft resolution was approved. What do you think of it?
[Silajdzic] I say that the member countries passed the resolution we wanted in connection with military intervention under UN supervision. They called for urgent humanitarian aid to Bosnia-Hercegovina and for reconstructing the country. They called on the international organizations to see the inhuman situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina.

[Correspondent] Are you satisfied with this result?
[Silajdzic] I am satisfied with the resolution, but we will have to see about its results.

Turkish Minister on UN 'Active Role'

TA1806161092 Ankara ANATOLIA in English 1545 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] Istanbul, June 18 (AA)—Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin said on Thursday that the Islamic countries hoped United Nations-sponsored sanctions against Serbia would be effective in bringing about a cease-fire in Bosnia-Hercegovina, otherwise harsher measures were likely to be taken.

"The OIC (Organization of the Islamic Conference) has agreed that if the United Nations is going to take a further active role or decision on Bosnia-Hercegovina, the OIC and its members are ready to contribute and support more effective action," he told a news conference after the OIC foreign ministers released a resolution condemning Serbia.

Cetin said the OIC had not urged the withdrawal of Croatian as well as Serbian forces from Bosnian territory because Croatia's deputy foreign minister had given assurances that its troops would pull out as soon as Serbian forces had left.

Croatia and Bosnia signed a defence pact this week allowing Croatian forces to fight Serb irregulars in Bosnia.

Spread of Fighting Discussed

TA1806201892 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1700 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] Another issue the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] foreign ministers discussed in Istanbul connected with the Bosnia-Hercegovina issue was the situation in Kosovo and the Sancak [Vojvodina] region. The ICO members expressed their concern that any fighting that might erupt in those regions might spread to the entire Balkan area.

[Begin recording] [Kosovo Prime Minister Bujar Bukoshi in English with superimposed Turkish translation] The situation in Kosovo becomes worse every day. Tension is escalating. We are defenseless and in a very difficult situation. We have the right to establish our own independent state as a non-Slavic people. But the Serbian administration does not want to recognize our right. Our aim is to have Kosovo recognized as an independent state. We want the international community to send permanent observers to the region. [end recording]

[Begin recording] [Sancak Muslim National Council Chairman Suleyman Uglanin in unidentified language with superimposed Turkish translation] The Serbs want to eliminate the Muslim people in Bosnia-Hercegovina, Sancak, and Kosovo, and turn those regions into Serbian territory. The situation in Sancak is very difficult, especially in the cities where the Muslims are a minority. All the other cities are surrounded by heavy weapons belonging to the Yugoslav National Army. [end recording]

[Begin recording] [Albanian Deputy Foreign Minister Mhill Marku recording, in English with superimposed Turkish translation] The Kosovo problem must be resolved quickly. Otherwise, we face a serious crisis that might involve the other countries in the region as well. If fighting erupts in Kosovo, the first thing Albania will do is to open its borders for the Albanians who live in that region. If there is fighting, Albania will not remain indifferent. [end recording]

Syrian Minister's Speech Noted

JN1906064092 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 19 Jun 92

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' asserted that the collective solidarity voiced by the Islamic delegations at the emergency conference of Arab foreign ministers with the people of Bosnia-Hercegovina for their ordeal and suffering is a clear message to the aggressors to stop their aggression against these people and to succumb to UN resolutions and the will of the international community.

The foreign minister made these remarks in a speech delivered at the conference, in which he commented about the address by the Bosnia-Hercegovina foreign minister at the extraordinary session of the Islamic foreign ministers. Al-Shar' noted that the speech by the Bosnia-Hercegovina foreign minister drew us closer to these people and made us better understand their difficult and complex circumstances, allowing us to be in greater solidarity with them now and in the future.

Al-Shar' praised the solidarity shown by the delegation heads toward our brothers in Palestine, the occupied Syrian Golan, and southern Lebanon, despite the fact that the Istanbul meeting was devoted to the Bosnia-Hercegovina issue. This solidarity, the foreign minister explained, proves that the ICO march is correct. It also shows that the Islamic states have not gone astray, as was hoped for by the Israelis, who daily confirm their expansionist intentions and the fact that they are enemies of peace.

Al-Shar' welcomed Turkmenia's joining the ICO. He expressed hope that the rest of the independent Islamic republics in Central Asia would follow suit.

Speaking on behalf of the Arab delegations, the foreign minister also noted the satisfaction of Arab states with Afghanistan's taking its natural place at the ICO. He wished the friendly Afghan people stability and progress. [passage omitted]

Meeting Ends

TA1806210492 Ankara Turkiye Radyolari Network in Turkish 2000 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] The ICO foreign ministers harshly condemned the Serbian attacks against Bosnia-Hercegovina. The extraordinary ICO meeting in Istanbul resulted in an expression of support for Azerbaijan, Nagorno-Karabakh, and Cyprus.

The ICO's fifth extraordinary foreign ministers meeting ended this evening. A joint news release issued at the end of the meeting criticized Armenia for its aggressive and expansionist policy toward Azerbaijan and stated that the ICO members are in solidarity with the people of Azerbaijan.

The news release was discussed and approved at the last session of the meeting, which was televised this evening. Then, a closing session was held, during which the ICO secretary read the news release.

The news release states that the Serbian attacks in Bosnia-Hercegovina are harshly condemned. It is stressed that the ICO will support any UN Security Council resolution that invokes the UN Charter provisions for adopting military measures.

It is noted that the Islamic countries participating in the meeting support the Middle East peace process. It is stated that implementing the UN resolutions that call for Israel's withdrawal from the territories it has been occupying since 1967 constitute the basis for the solution of the Palestinian problem.

About the Cyprus issue, it is noted that the member countries support the peace efforts of the UN secretary general and that an acceptable solution to the problem must be based on the principle of the equality of the two Cypriot communities.

It is stressed in the news release that Armenia must stop its aggressive and expansionist policy against Azerbaijan as soon as possible. The international community is urged to exert all possible efforts against Armenia to persuade it to stop obstructing a peaceful solution to the problem.

It is noted in the news release that the latest developments in Afghanistan are pleasing, and the member countries are urged to extend technical, financial, and humanitarian aid to Afghanistan.

After the news release was read, Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin spoke as the chairman of the fifth extraordinary foreign ministers meeting. He stated that Islamic solidarity was displayed once again, and agreement was reached among the participating countries on almost every issue.

The meeting ended with readings from the Koran.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Officials, Negotiators View Amman Talks

JN1906081592 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 19 Jun 92 pp 1, 16

[Excerpts] Amman-PETRA-News Agencies—The meetings of the higher Palestinian committee in charge of negotiations with Israel kicked off in Amman yesterday evening under the chairmanship of Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat. [passage omitted]

Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, PLO Executive Committee member and head of the PLO Information Department, met with reporters. He said: Through this meeting, we want to stress two main points: first, that the Palestinian people inside and outside the occupied territories have one cause and one leadership. We also want to convey the message of the Palestinian people in their entirety; namely, that they want peace and that they hope that the Israeli public will support the peace process as well by taking a responsible stand during the elections.

He added: We do not interfere in Israeli elections. But just as any rational Israeli would like to see the responsible Palestinian political position that has been adopted by the leadership of the Palestinian people and the Arab states continue, we also would like to see a responsible position by the Israelis in support of the peace process.

He expressed the hope that the Israeli elections will yield an Israeli Government that takes peace seriously. The experience of the past nine months has proven that Shamir and his government have completely barred the road to peace and that no one can be optimistic while a Shamir-led government is in power.

He called on the Israelis to vote for the peace process and for recognizing the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

Meanwhile, a large Palestinian delegation arrived in Amman yesterday afternoon from the occupied Palestinian territories. The delegation comprises Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Advisory Council of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, Dr. Haydar 'Abd- al-Shafi, head of the negotiating Palestinian delegation, and several other members of the delegation. They will participate in the meetings of the higher executive committee in charge of bilateral and multilateral negotiations.

Upon arrival, al-Husayni told the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY that this is the first meeting of the committee

since the conclusion of the five rounds of bilateral talks and the first round of the multilaterals.

He added that the conferees will discuss ways to strengthen the linkage between the bilateral and multilateral negotiations and to strengthen Palestinian-Jordanian coordination. [passage omitted]

While 'Arafat welcomed the Palestinian negotiators, Palestinian Ambassador in Amman al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim told reporters: This is the final step toward reasserting that the PLO is the reference point for the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks.

'Abd-al-Rahim said that the meeting will discuss a Palestinian plan for holding legislative elections in the occupied territories in an effort to transfer authority to the Palestinians by the end of the interim phase of the peace process next October. He noted, however, that Israel objects to this plan.

Ahmad Quray', director of the PLO's Economic Affairs and Planning Department and coordinator-general of the bilateral negotiations, praised the strong Palestinian-Jordanian coordination before, during, and after the negotiating rounds. He stressed the need to pursue and develop this coordination in preparation for future rounds.

In an exclusive statement to the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY upon arriving in Amman yesterday, he remarked: We and Jordan are joined under one banner, which is that of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. We are joined by one destiny, one objective, and one position. [passage omitted]

Quray' affirmed that the Palestinian foundations at the negotiations are based on international resolutions, on ensuring the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, and on achieving their ambitions and aspirations. The United States is called upon to pressure Israel into responding to international legitimacy. [passage omitted]

'Abd-Rabbuh Extends 'Message of Peace' to Israel

JN1806200492 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] Palestine President Yasir 'Arafat chaired a meeting of Palestinian leaders and peace negotiators at the guest palace in Amman. Discussions centered on the Middle East peace process and the strategy for the next round of talks. They also tackled the situation in the occupied territories and Israeli oppressive measures against the Palestinian people.

PLO Executive Member Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh said that the meeting was to reaffirm the unity of Palestinians inside the occupied territories and in the diaspora. He said the Palestinians wanted to extend the message of peace to the Israelis ahead of next week's general elections in Israel.

[Begin 'Abd-Rabbuh recording] We are here in order to evaluate the peace process after nine months, and also we are here to extend the message of peace to the Israeli people before the elections. We wish that the Israeli people will vote for peace as we had stressed in this meeting the continuation of our policy—the policy of peace, the policy to be, to continue the participation in the peace process, and the policy of international legality as a basis for this peace process.

This meeting is intended in fact once again to send this message of peace. The whole Palestinian people inside and outside the occupied territories and the Palestinian leadership are united behind the Palestinian peace plan and are united behind the Palestinian delegation in their efforts in order to achieve a peaceful settlement in the region. [end recording]

PLO Prepares Draft Plan for Legislative Elections

TA1806163292 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 18 Jun 92 pp 1, 15

["Exclusive" AL-QUDS report]

[Text] Amman—The PLO, along with Palestinians from inside the occupied territories, prepared a draft plan about arrangements for the legislative elections that are supposed to be held in the occupied territories at the end of October. This plan will be discussed and reviewed at meetings today in Amman between the Palestinian leadership and members of the Palestinian negotiating delegation.

Press sources in Amman stated that these expanded meetings will be chaired by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and that Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation, will also participate in the meetings, which will be attended by members of the PLO Executive Committee and the Fatah Central Committee.

The 10-page draft plan is entitled "Points on the Arrangements for Elections" and is an appendix to the expanded plan for arrangements relating to the Palestinian Interim Self-Governing Authority [PISGA], which was presented by the Palestinian delegation to the Israeli delegation on 3 March 1992. It is also an appendix to the notes on the issue of elections, presented on 28 April 1992.

The plan addresses some detailed aspects of PISGA, which consists of 180 members.

It has been noted that the plan is based on the second part of the Camp David accords, relating to the status of the occupied territories. It becomes clear from the plan, a copy of which AL-QUDS has obtained, that it represents another Palestinian attempt to propose practical steps to confront the Israeli persistence in maintaining the status quo in the occupied territories and to challenge Israel's attempts to legitimize an illegal situation in those territories. The plan represents a new attempt by the Palestinian delegation to change the status quo while adhering to the U.S. letter of invitation to the peace conference and the U.S. letter of assurances, which constitute the basis of the current peace process.

The plan clearly demonstrates the Palestinian adherence to Palestinian principles and all Palestinian demands included in the documents presented at the previous rounds of bilateral negotiations. The plan also reaffirms the Palestinian demand mentioned in the U.S. letter of assurances on the need to hold elections in order to transfer power to PISGA, with the final status of the occupied territories to be determined later.

The Plan's Aims

It is worth noting that the plan for elections is a Palestinian attempt to achieve the Palestinian people's national and political rights by implementing Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

The plan calls on Israel to implement the Fourth Geneva Convention and to stop all settlement activities in the occupied Palestinian territories before the elections.

The plan provides a Palestinian conception of the Palestinian situation after elections, that is the transfer of full authority from Israel to the Palestinians and an Israeli military withdrawal. "Units of the Israeli Army and border guards, as well as other military and paramilitary forces, would be deployed outside populated areas and the traffic routes between those areas" for the sake of holding free elections in which Israeli military forces would not interfere.

The plan also calls for international supervision over the elections and the deployment of international forces in "specific areas of the occupied Palestinian territories." There should also be an observer police force whose main task would be to supervise the maintenance of law and order.

Principles

The plan demonstrates the Palestinian side's eagerness to adopt a positive and practical stance in dealing with the peace process and to avoid addressing "rejected" Israeli ideas negatively, particularly in view of the fact that Israeli documents have ignored the issue of Palestinian elections. This also indicates the Palestinian side's adherence to the U.S. letters of invitation and assurances.

The plan refers to the right of return of those displaced in 1967, as well as to their right and the right of their children and grandchildren to vote.

The plan affirms the Palestinian position on Jerusalem, which is regarded as part of the occupied territories. All changes that have taken place under Israeli military rule and that aimed at altering the status quo that existed in 1967, particularly with respect to Jerusalem, are regarded as null and void. East Jerusalem is therefore an integral part of the West Bank, and its residents must take part in choosing the self-governing authority.

This subject is referred to in the plan's fifth clause, which stipulates setting up "electoral departments by taking into consideration the number of residents, the municipal boundaries, and the departments that existed before 5 June 1967."

The plan points out that elections for the 180 members of the legislative assembly of the PISGA will be held on the basis of a mixed electoral system, which is a combination of direct individual elections and elections from lists of political parties and organizations on the basis of proportional representation.

The elections are to be held on the basis of secret and general balloting for the direct and individual election of 90 members. The other 90 members will be chosen from party lists on the basis of proportional representation. Every 18-year old male or female Palestinian will have the right to vote.

Democratic Front Head on Israeli Withdrawal

JN1806135392 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] Nayif Hawatimah, head of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], stated that a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation will be hard to implement before an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories. He noted, however, that the national, pan-Arab confederal relationship decision was made by the Palestine National Council about 10 years ago. Hawatimah, now in Amman, indicated that the Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat was surprised by his political adviser's statement about the need for setting up a confederation between Jordan and Palestine by the year's end. 'Arafat, who heard Abu-Sharif's remarks while he was having a meeting with Hawatimah, called Tunis and asked his advisor to retract his statement, according to the DFLP chief.

On another subject, Hawatimah predicted that next week's Israeli elections will produce a coalition government grouping the Likud bloc and Labor Party hawks led by Yitzhaq Rabin. Such a scenario, thinks Hawatimah, should further complicate the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations. The PLO Executive Committee will convene in Amman in the next two days under Yasir 'Arafat to look into ways to advance the intifadah and to right the course of the Arab-Israeli negotiations. The meeting, added Hawatimah, will also consider ways to enhance Jordanian-Palestinian coordination and explore the possibility of forming a collective PLO leadership, as demanded by the DFLP.

Algeria

Gendarmes Ordered To Respond to 'Any Attack'

LD1906072192 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 19 Jun 92

[Text] The national gendarmerie services have received the order to respond immediately to any attack in any place and in any circumstances. The news item was reported by APS quoting a statement of the gendarmerie command. This comes following the succession of operations targeting security men.

Minister Djoudi Denies Submitting Resignation

LD1706230692 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] Hechemi Nait Djoudi, the minister of transportation and communications, denied today's radio report announcing his resignation. In a statement to APS, Mr. Nait Djoudi categorically denied the report, asserting that he will not allow himself to be used by those who are trying to undermine the government and the state.

Interior Minister Clarifies Remarks on Elections

LD1806075992 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Report by Mohsen Karim]

[Text] I have never said presidential elections would be held before the end of the year. Larbi Belkseir affirmed this today to the weekly ALGERIE-ACTUALITE. He pointed out that he had said the following: It is best to hold presidential elections as soon as possible. The interior minister also pointed out that it is not within his powers to fix the date of the elections or to make a judgment regarding the necessity of this decision.

With regard to the country's security situation, the interior minister said that the security forces now have the advantage after it had been held by those whom he described as terrorists. He said that the authorities of the country are working to restore the authority of the state, which has not been reimposed everywhere because, as he said, this is a long-term and difficult task.

Regarding the issue of preparing his ministry for the elections, the interior minister said: We are organizing ourselves so that the forthcoming elections are held in an effective and modern way which takes into consideration all past mistakes, and enables the administration to maintain a stance of neutrality. Naturally, as the minister said, this has no relation whatsoever with organizing free and fair elections. [sentence as heard]

Belkseir also discussed the existence of eight dossiers which were opened by the Interior Ministry and which are related to the reorganization of the local administration which includes the law on district, municipality, and town and country planning as it is expected that the number of provinces would increase so as to bring the citizen closer to the administration. The idea of redividing the province of Algiers into several centers or several provinces is under consideration. Belkseir says that the desired aim is to take better charge of the problems of citizens and the rehabilitation of public services. This confirms that the Interior Ministry is at present not only preoccupied with security matters but is the backbone of the state, as Belkseir said.

Bomb Explosion Outside Algiers Telephone Exchange

LD1806195992 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Excerpt] An explosive charge was discovered outside the main entrance of the telephone exchange building at 1 May Square about 1515. The relevant services rushed to the scene but fortunately the explosion was not powerful. [passage omitted]

* Iman Criticizes Desertion of 'Militant Islamists'

92P40209A Algiers ALGER REPUBLICAIN in French 22-23 May 92

[Text] During Friday weekly prayers the iman of the Islamist mosque, El-Sunna, located in the working-class district of Bab El Oued in Algiers, severely criticized the "desertion" of militants of the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front, dissolved] during his sermon. Shouting violently at the militants, the Iman declared: "Where have you gone during these difficult times for Islam, you who used to fill the streets in large numbers and would proclaim that you would die for Islam," referring to the dissolution of the FIS and the arrest of several thousands of its militants.

On the other hand, the iman of a mosque near El-Sunna affirmed with force that "the Islamic state will sooner or later be established in Algeria, at whatever price."

Egypt

Mubarak Meets Israeli Agudat Party Leader

NC1806142992 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1345 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] Cairo, 18 Jun (MENA)—This afternoon President Husni Mubarak met with Rabbi Menahem Porush, leader of the Israeli Agudat Party, who is visiting Cairo. Egyptian Ambassador to Israel Muhammad Basyuni and Israeli Ambassador to Egypt Efrayim Dowek attended the meeting.

Following the meeting, the rabbi expressed his pleasure at meeting President Mubarak, whom he described as "a man of peace who is struggling to achieve peace in the region." He added that Egypt has been a pioneer in establishing peace.

Rabbi Porush said that he listened to the principles President Mubarak is trying to use to achieve peace in

the Middle East. He said that he believes that these principles, if adopted by the other parties, are bound to facilitate the peace process.

Touching on Tuesday's Israeli elections, the rabbi said he believes that Likud leader and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir will be charged with forming a new government. Shamir will help achieve peace, the rabbi said.

Mubarak Sends Message to Namibian President

NC1806141692 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak sent a message today to Namibian President Sam Nujoma about issues pertaining to Africa and Egypt's position on the major agenda topics of the upcoming African summit in Dakar.

The message was delivered by Ambassador Sa'id Rif'at, director of the Foreign Ministry's African section, during a meeting with President Nujoma today in Windhoek.

Following the meeting, Ambassador Rif'at said that Nujoma agrees fully with President Mubarak's views as expressed in his message. He also reiterated his desire to enhance the OAU's role, particularly in settling disputes.

Ambassador Rif'at added that the Namibian president underlined the importance of inter-African cooperation in all fields.

Musa Returns From Istanbul ICO Meeting

NC1906063692 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 19 Jun 92

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa returned to Cairo last night after leading Egypt's delegation to the extraordinary meeting of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] foreign ministers, held in Turkey during the last two days.

Musa stated that the conference was successful and that the participants agreed that the ICO should ask the Security Council to increase sanctions against Serbia if it insists on continuing attacks against Bosnia-Hercegovina.

Musa said resolutions were passed to provide urgent humanitarian aid and assistance to rebuild Bosnia. He added that the conferees agreed to ask ICO member states and other countries to recognize Bosnia-Hercegovina and implement Security Council sanctions.

The foreign minister said he held talks on the sidelines of the conference with the participating foreign ministers. Most importantly, he said, he held a meeting with the Damascus Declaration countries' foreign ministers, and agreement was reached for these foreign ministers to meet in Doha on 9 and 10 July.

Team To Supervise Elections in Ethiopia

NC1906040292 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1540 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] Cairo, 18 Jun (MENA)—Egypt received an official invitation from Ethiopia to supervise Sunday's elections.

A Foreign Ministry statement reads that the Egyptian observers team will include Dr. Sulayman 'Abd-al-Sattar Khatir, dean of the African Studies Institute; Dr. Shawqi 'Abdallah al-Jamal, professor at the Faculty of Economics and Political Sciences at Cairo University; Taha 'Abd-al-'Alim, of the Al-Ahram Center for Strategic Studies; and former Ambassador Mahmud Qasim.

A number of observers from other states and international organizations will also participate in monitoring the elections, the first since the new regime assumed power.

Results of Consultative Council's Rerun Elections

NC1906080492 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] The Interior Ministry's main operations room this morning received all the results from the polling stations in which rerun elections for the Consultative Council's membership were held.

A vote count of the results received from polling stations showed the following: In Cairo, Hasan al-Tunisi, a laborer, won the rerun elections in the second polling station in al-Sayyidah Zaynab, and 'Abd-al-Ilah 'Abd-al-Hamid, a laborer, won in the fourth station in al-Azbakiyah.

In the al-Daqahliyah Governorate, 'Uf 'Umar Mahmud al-Qahwaji, a laborer, and Khalid Muhammad Hammad, a professional, won in the first station in al-Mansurah; al-Sayyid Suwaylim Muhammad Suwaylim, a professional, won in the fifth station in Dikirnis; and Nash'at 'Abd-al-Hamid Sulayman, a professional, won in the sixth station in al-Manzalah.

In Damietta, Dr. Ramadan Muhammad al-Dusuqi, a professional, won in the second station in Fariskur.

In al-Gharbiyah Governorate, 'Abd-al-Hamid 'Abd-al-Hamid 'Abd-al- Nabi 'Umayrah, a laborer, won in the third station in Zifta; and 'Abd-al-'Aziz Yusuf Hatatah, a laborer, won in the fourth station in Kafr al-Zayyat.

In Sawhaj, Kamil Fumi Hulayyil al-Dab', a professional, won in the third station in Saqultah; Faruq 'Ali Abu-Zayd Ibrahim, a laborer, and Muhammad 'Ali Sayyid al-Mushwadhi, a professional, won in the fourth station in al-Minshah; and 'Uthman Ahmad Ibrahim, a laborer, won in the fifth station in al-Balyana.

In Qina, Muhammad 'Ali 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Ali, a professional, and Mustafa Mahmud Ahmad Sibaq, a laborer, won in the third station in Abu Tisht; Mahmud 'Ali Muhammad Musa, a professional, won in the fourth station in the Tus police station; and 'Abd-al-Ra'uf

'Uthman, a farmer, and 'Ali 'Abd-al-'Aziz Hasan al-'Uwyas, a professional, won in the fifth station in Luxor.

Article Views State Role in Economic Reform

NC1806121992 Cairo AL-AHRAM WEEKLY in English 11 Jun 92 p 6

[A "precis" of an article by Ibrahim Nafi': "An Important Role To Play"]

[Text] The IMF, World Bank, and the European Economic Community (EEC) have been closely monitoring and evaluating the considerable progress that the Egyptian economy has made. It is very heartening to know that the Egyptian pound has finally been stabilised in relation to the U.S. dollar and the other major hard currencies. The instability of the Egyptian pound has traditionally constituted the biggest headache for Egyptian economists and policy-makers.

We achieved so much we now need a clear definition of the role of the Egyptian Government, in particular its long-term role as the principle agent of economic liberalisation. Of critical importance is the Egyptian Government's capacity to promulgate laws that free foreign and Egyptian entrepreneurs to participate constructively in the country's new laissez faire economy.

The current levels of political and economic liberalisation were unimaginable not long ago. Egypt pioneered political and economic liberalisation more than a decade before any other state in the region attempted it. The Egyptian experience has had considerable regional repercussions.

Particular attention must now be paid to quickening the pace of reform without compromising our determination to ensure that the benefits are felt by the nation as a whole. The fruits of the economic liberalisation process must be felt by every section of Egyptian society. The invigoration of the private sector and the active participation of foreign capital and investment in the development of the economy must be viewed in the context of uplifting the whole society and not only a select few.

We should remember that not so long ago the average Egyptian citizen simply did not have the freedom of movement he now enjoys. Now every Egyptian, and indeed every foreigner, is free to live wherever he or she wishes in the country and invest their money wherever and however they choose.

These changes did not come about in a political vacuum. The transformation from a closed and excessively state-controlled system into a thriving and relatively liberal political and economic system occurred as a direct result of deliberate political decisions. What is required at this juncture is to map the future role of the government in facilitating further changes.

The Egyptian Government like any other state cannot simply withdraw from its all important role of guiding and directing the process of change.

The critical question, particularly for a developing country, is where to draw the line concerning the powers of state intervention in the economic decision-making process.

Much has been said regarding the dangers, specially for developing nations, of wasting resources on arms and defence. Statements on the subject have been made repeatedly in many international fora, such as the United Nations. As a case in point, the collapse of the former Soviet Union was in essence the result of grandiose and excessive expenditure on arms and military production.

No country in the world is self-sufficient to the extent that it is capable of producing all its needs, particularly when it comes to infrastructure development. And as a developing country we are especially vulnerable. In this context, there is a dire need for a strong government to lead the way in the rapid industrialisation process.

Only the state can provide such direction and, more importantly, guarantee political stability and the necessary security to ensure that foreign investors and local entrepreneurs are not frightened off by political instability which is so prevalent in our region. The state must also intervene to provide necessary infrastructure, both physical and social, to facilitate industrial development.

Debt is a serious problem for Egypt. To proceed successfully with rapid industrialisation, we need to reschedule our enormous debts, the repayment of which is a great burden on our national resources. A critical problem is obtaining much needed foreign capital at the lowest possible interest rates. But cheap capital does not come easily. Numerous countries in the Third World (the South) are competing with us for grants, loans and investments from the industrially advanced countries.

The international donor agencies and international financial institutions, together with the nations of the First World have traditionally urged us to devote more and more of our resources to social, educational and health services and general infrastructural development, and less to arms and defence. The state is therefore considered responsible for transferring resources traditionally spent on arms and ammunition to investment on infrastructural development and social services.

There remains the crucial question of how the money is to be obtained. Is the money for resource allocation in selected areas of the economy to come from an increase in taxes? Is it to come from the savings of Egyptians? Increases in the level of taxation may make local investors reluctant to invest at home. Instead, the money may be siphoned off to overseas countries. In order to increase capital accumulation in the country and to encourage Egyptians to save more, certain policies will have to be rigorously adhered to. Inflation has to be brought under control.

To reach the most appropriate solution to our problems, it is imperative that we bow to some measures of state

intervention. The level of economic and social development dictates this. The various ministries of the state must coordinate their efforts and liaise with each other.

It is important to note that the state can never end the provision of cheap and easily accessible social, educational, and health services. Free education is an absolute necessity, especially for primary and elementary levels. The loss would be to the nation as a whole if such important services were not provided.

In this context, we must arrive at the most suitable options of resource allocation available to us. It is time to put a stop to calls for the end of free education and the channeling of precious local resources to invest in health and education. Already the levels of illiteracy run at an unacceptably high rate, which in the long-run greatly harms the nation.

The prosperous must realise that they have to share the burden of the alleviation of poverty, the eradication of illiteracy and improvements in health and social services.

Libya

IRA Said Threatening al-Qadhdhafi, Officials

NC1706124992 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 15 Jun 92 p 12

[Report by Wa'il al-Abrashi]

[Text] Responsible Libyan sources in Cairo told ROSE AL-YUSUF that Libyan Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, members of his family, and a number of Libyan officials, including Foreign Minister [title as published] Ibrahim al-Bishari, received assassination threats from the IRA.

The threats followed reports that Libya released several documents regarding IRA training camps and the assistance it is receiving. A few days ago, Libya informed a British official of the secrets of its relationship with the IRA, as well as the amount and types of weapons the IRA possesses.

Egyptian Daily on Resolving Lockerbie Issue

NC1706061792 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2023 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Text] Cairo, 16 Jun (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR reports that Libya's decision to resolve its crisis with the West consists of seven points and that under the Libyan system, this decision will not be final or official until the Basic People's Congresses endorse it.

In its Wednesday edition, the paper says that the decision will call for turning a new page in relations with the United States and Western countries, and for balance in Libya's future relations with the Arabs and the West. The decision is also expected to call for resolving the Lockerbie crisis peacefully by handing over the two suspects to a neutral country, (?dealing) on a reciprocal basis with the countries that voted for the blockade, and blaming the countries that rushed to impose the blockade, especially the Arab Maghreb countries. It will also call for preparedness to confront any potential U.S. attack.

The paper cites Misbah Muhammad al-Shatawi, president of Tripoli's court of appeals, as saying that Libyan law (?does not) prevent the two Libyans from surrendering voluntarily to another country, but neither the leader of the revolution nor the People's Congress can decide to hand them over.

Daily Parallels Libyan, USSR Policy Mistakes

LD1806163492 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1035 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Excerpts] Tripoli, 18 Jun (JANA)—Under the title "The Arab Libyans and the bills for liberating others," the daily AL-JAMAHIRIYAH, published by the revolutionary committees, wrote another article today within the series exposing the Arab reality. It wrote: For anyone who followed the revolutionary papers' recent articles that criticized the Jamahiriyah's foreign policies—as described by Western information media—it becomes clear to see the disappointment felt by the Arab Libyans in general and by members of the revolutionary committees in particular. In both the Arab and the Islamic attitude vis-a-vis their just cause, they are facing up to the Atlantic crusader West's siege and the threat of aggression without any support or solidarity from the Arabs and the Muslims. They do so to ensure halting the aggression or to extricate Libyan Arabs from the circle of feeling of disappointment. The paper stated that its criticism applies to the Arabs and Muslims and not to Arabism and Islam. [passage omitted] The daily AL-JAMAHIRIYAH added that the critical review of the Jamahiriyah's foreign policies came a little too late, as it should have coincided with the international changes and made use of the Soviet experience and the reasons and factors that led to the Soviet Union's fall and from the mistakes that it made or fell into in its foreign policy.

The Soviet Union pursued a foreign policy that turned Moscow into a center that supported the extremities instead of being a center supported by them. That Western model follows foreign policies that make the extremities supportive to the imperialist centers through organized plunder by means of the multinational companies. This forced the Soviet Union to bear enormous expenditures for the allied or friendly or anti-imperialist extremities. Such was the cost of expanding ideology, which was considered the tool of liberation from imperialism—culturally, politically, and economically. And we in the Jamahiriyah: notwithstanding the great difference between us as a small, poor, and materially backward country compared to the former Soviet Union. But we fell almost into the same mistakes, having represented the supportive partner, despite the fact that we were very far from representing the center role in the various cooperation relations that were established

between us and the various Third World countries, regardless of their Arab, Islamic, or Third World affiliation.

We provided all forms of support to the liberation movements from the African National Congress to the Palestine Liberation Organization. Should the Libyan Arabs—despite their commitment in documenting the declaration of the people's power—bear the cost of liberating all peoples and national minorities struggling for their freedom or for their rights? Do the capabilities of a small country like Libya allow it to pay those "bills" from the subsistance of its people and the funds for their medical treatment, particularly for the non-Arab and the non-Muslims?

The international changes and the United States' subsequent monopoly of holding the reins of controlling the world and engineering what she calls the new international order makes it possible for her to be a national world government—something that did not happen for Nazism and Fascism or to others who dreamed of being world emperors. That prompts us and the Libyan Arabs to pose these questions. They are no longer just facing footing the "bills" for emancipating others. The world government is now paying to them more than that to stop them paying those bills without the support of those who used to receive the value of those bills. [as received]

AL-JAMAHIRIYAH Assails Arab Neighbors

LD1806184592 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1135 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Excerpts] Tripoli, 18 Jun (JANA)—Today's AL-JAMAHIRIYAH wrote about what the Arabs offered the Libyans during their crisis. Under the title [words indistinct], it writes: What did the Arabs offer to the Libyans during their crisis? Sorry, answering this will lead us to tell the truth, even if [words indistinct]. We followed the path that you [as received] traced, and we have borne a range of difficulties and tasks. We sacrificed everything, even our children's bread. [passage omitted]. We are now in a whirlwind, and we do not know any more who is foe and who is friend, and what is permitted and what is prohibited. [passage omitted].

We tried all ways. We played all the cards, the latest of which was smashing the gates [not further specified], which was like plowing the sea: The land of all Arabs does not interest them anymore. The narrow regionalist interest was put above any consideration. Instead of making preparations and standing in one rank facing colonialism, we found dollar worshippers and drug dealers. We exhausted our economy fo. their sake, and we prohibited for ourselves what they permitted for themselves.

The fig leaf has dropped, and everything has been laid bare: The Arabs are these days reserves for the Marines. I would not be surprised if joy overcame them while listening to the Security Council resolutions, as these resolutions would be subjected to regional economic [words indistinct].

Concluding its article, the paper states: Sorry, these are the Arabs you [as received] wanted us to sacrifice ourselves for. But, once again, sorry: You are the one who taught us life. From you we learned that it is a position of pride, that we should hold our heads high and that we should fear only God.

We say with all bitterness: The Arabs you are talking to us about are dead in the battles of honor and sacrifice. The current ones are nothing but [words indistinct]. To them, pan-Arabism now means dollar, and the Arab cause is now being sold at auction for dollars. What remains that deserves sacrifice, now that the game has become clear, and reality now lays bare the impotence and marginality of the Arabs?

We declare that we will not make any new step [words indistinct].

Results of Pan-Arab Efforts 'Nothing'

LD1806193292 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1000 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Excerpts] Tripoli, 18 Jun (JANA)—(?Addressed to) the Arab revolutionary committees branch, AL-ZAHF AL-AKHDHAR carries an editorial entitled "Close Down the Pan-Arab Revolution Company." The editorial opens by saying:

Twenty years of pan-Arab action. Twenty years of incitement to revolution. Twenty years of advocating a better pan-Arab future. Twenty years of work [words indistinct]. But the result is nothing.

AL-ZAHF AL-AKHDHAR's editorial says that for 20 years, the main concern that has enveloped us, to the degree of mania, is the pan-Arab revolutionary action. Throughout the past years we have been working hard; our eyes have seen no sleep, and our hearts have seen no contentment [words indistinct]. [passage omitted]

For change to become possible, scientific and spontaneous, the pan-Arab revolutionary committees branch was set up. Its undeclared motto, over many long years, has been to attract Arab youth to the pan-Arab revolutionary movement, educate them and coordinate among them [words indistinct] for a series of enlightened revolutionary programs and projects.

AL-ZAHF AL-AKHDHAR's editorial explains that this branch was set up and its periodic budget grew year after year. The number of people coming to and dealing with it increased daily. But whenever the latter increased, the former shrank. Its work diminished daily, and the pan-Arab revolutionary committees branch became the pan-Arab weary committees branch. [passage indistinct]

The Arab youth recruited to the revolutionary committees began to change into traders, company agents, and

investors instead of being enlightened advocates [as received], making sacrifices for the sake of the objective they had come for. They stripped revolutionary action of its seriousness and its mass-orientation; they stripped the persecuted, the down-trodden and the helpless of their confidence in the ability of the revolutionary committees movement to take a serious and effective stand.

This branch is similar to all other pan-Arab shops, no more than a failed pan-Arab shop. [passage omitted]

AL-ZAHF AL-AKHDHAR stresses that it is time these shops were closed down, the traders in revolution and investors in the freedom of the Arab citizen were sent back to their brothels, banks and companies. We forgive them for the single reason that others cannot bear the responsibility for our mistakes. We dealt with them [words indistinct]. We have been dominated by the Bedouin spirit alone. But now, and without abandoning our Bedouin character and its great values, we say to them: Beware the Bedouin when he is angry; don't tread this chaste land with your filthy feet and your filthy souls. [passage omitted]

AL-ZAHF AL-AKHDHAR ends its editorial by saying: Leave the persecuted, the downtrodden and the helpless, who fill the greater Arab homeland, alone. Leave them to make their revolution and build their lives by themselves. Let them be for whatever they wish to be for—either a freedom that will liberate them or a life of ignominy they can live just like cattle. For them is what their will determines and what their minds decide.

Scottish-Arab Alliance Condemns NATO Resolution

LD1706163192 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 14 Jun 92

[Text] In a cable sent to John Major, the British prime minister, the Scottish-Arab alliance, established to develop and deepen the understanding between the Arab homeland and Britain, condemned the NATO resolution to impose compulsory measures against the Great Jamahiriyah.

In its cable, the alliance stated: That resolution led to the imposition of restrictions that included importing medicines for the children and elderly. The cable pointed out that the members of the British community in Libya, and all the places in which they live, stressed their opposition to the hardline course adopted by Bush and his supporters toward Libya.

The alliance also pointed out that implementing the unjust NATO resolution harmed British trade relations with Libya.

Support of Philippines' Ramos Noted

LD1606212592 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Text] It was officially announced today in the Philippine capital, Manila, that the former Philippine defense minister, General Fidel Ramos, won the presidential elections that were held last month. A parliamentary committee confirmed that candidate Ramos was more than 700,000 votes ahead of his competitor in the elections.

General Ramos promised to continue the improvements to the economy and to balance the budget. He also promised to work toward national reconciliation.

Philippine President Fidel Ramos visited the Great Jamahiriyah in February this year. He was met by the brother leader of the revolution in Sidra.

The Philippine president, who was then defense minister, expressed his support to the people of the Great Jamahiriyah. He said: After the elections, I am going to talk to my people about this matter.

Sudan

Rebel Attack on Juba 'Propaganda Action'

EA1606164592 Khartoum SUNA in English 1647 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Text] Khartoum, 15 Jun (SUNA)—The state minister for defence, Maj-Gen (Retd) 'Uthman Muhammad al-Hasan has described the recent desperate and suicidal attempt by the rebellion movement against Juba town as a mere propaganda action, saying that the armed forces have aborted [it]. Speaking to SUNA Monday, the state minister said the operation might have been intended to take place before the Abuja peace talks as a propaganda victory for the outlaws. He reaffirmed that the Armed Forces retain the initiative at all operation areas, pointing to its major victories there. "The major victories realised by the Armed Forces have won the recognition of the world and the enemies and friends as well," he concluded.

Saudi Scholars Barred From Pilgrimage

EA1706195092 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1545 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] Khartoum 17 Jun (SUNA)—Saudi authorities barred (?66) Saudi religious scholars from performing the pilgrimage this year and also prevented the residents of 14 camps, among whom are Saudi religious scholars and their disciples, from (?leaving) Mina for Arafat [part of the pilgrimage in Saudi Arabia], whereby they were forced to [words indistinct].

Reports reaching AL-INQADH AL-WATANI from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia say that the pilgrimage this year was devoid of all the phenomena of public order and good organization and that it was marked by disorder and [words indistinct].

Other reports say that a great number of the pilgrims were [words indistinct] seeking to know about the health of Dr. Hasan al-Turabi, secretary general of the popular Arab and Islamic conference. The pilgrims were also eager for news of Sudan and its development, particularly the Armed Forces victories, increases in productivity, and agricultural expansion.

Bahrain

Minister Discusses Ties with Iran, Gulf States

PM1806102092 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 13 Jun 92 p 3

[Hasan al-Luqays report: "Al-Mu'ayyad Tells AL-HAYAH: Syrian-Iranian Cooperation Could Boost Positive Cooperation Between Syria and Gulf States"]

[Excerpts] Manama—Bahraini Information Minister Tariq al-Mu'ayyad has said that his visit to Syria this month—the first by a high-ranking Bahraini official in more than 20 years—lay within a clear political framework drawn up by Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad when he received the Bahraini media delegation comprising chief editors of the local newspapers, television, and newsagencies.

In a statement to AL-HAYAH about the results of the visit, which was paid at the invitation of Syrian Information Minister Muhammad Salman, the minister added that his meeting with President al-Asad was open, comprehensive, and based on clarifying Syria's view of the issues affecting the Gulf region and Arab issues in general. Al-Mu'ayyad said that Syrian-Iranian cooperation could boost positive cooperation between Syria and the Gulf states.

He said: "I believe that the Syrian view proceeds from Damascus' opposition to any armed aggression by one Arab state against another, which is consistent with our policy in the Gulf and that of the civilized world as a whole. This, because armed aggressions must end and be part of the past." [passage omitted]

He added: "We share with our brothers in Syria the view that Israel is a factor of instability in the Middle East and that the its continued occupation of part of Lebanon is a fundamental factor in the failure to establish security there."

The minister pointed out that he sensed optimism in Syria about the U.S. peace initiative in the Middle East. He added that "there is a farsighted vision which could produce fruitful results, especially if President George Bush manages to remain president. We feel that the U.S. administration has won some trust and some acceptance in its approach to the brothers in Syria. I believe that this could bear fruit in the future. I think we are not revealing any secret if we say that if Syria did not believe that, it would have moved a step toward accepting the peace initiative."

With regard to the Damascus declaration, the Bahraini information minister said: "From that visit we felt that there is much to discuss about the Damascus declaration. It is important to make it clear to the whole world, and especially our region, that the declaration is not directed against anyone. This, because it is positive, not negative, and nobody should regard it as directed against him, because was the result of certain conditions which proved that solidarity and cooperation exist among these states and can be recorded for history and the future in a document called the Damascus declaration." [passage omitted]

With regard to Syrian-Iranian relations and their influence in the Gulf region and the Arab region after the crisis, al-Mu'ayyad said: "Bahrain and the Gulf states believe that the Iranian position during the Gulf war was positive and won respect for the regime in Iran. You can see an inclination to intensify cooperation with the Islamic republic in Iran in various fields. And there is encouragement to boost trade, especially with the Gulf states, because some Iranian areas and coasts are close to Gulf ports. This is why Syrian-Iranian cooperation could boost positive cooperation between Syria and the Gulf states." [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Extraordinary Session of Council of Ministers Held

LD1706205392 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Excerpts] His highness the amir of the country, may God safeguard him, this morning chaired an extraordinary meeting of the Council of Ministers in the amiri office at al-Bayan Palace. [passage omitted]

Following the meeting Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Dari 'Abdallah al-Uthman announced that his highness the amir, may God protect him, briefed the Council at the meeting on the outcome of the positive tour he and the accompanying delegation undertook in a number of friendly states in central and southern America. It included the republics of Mexico, Venezuela, Honduras, Argentina, and Brazil. His highness explained to the Council details of the fruitful talks he held with leaders and high-ranking officials of these friendly states, and what substance they gave to the common aspirations and attitudes toward further cooperation and enhancement of the good ties between Kuwait and every one of those states. [passage omitted].

On another score, his highness the amir, may God protect him, informed the Council of the outcome of the proceedings of the International Conference on the Environment and Development, held recently in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in which he participated, together with a large number of world leaders and heads of state, as an expression of the great importance Kuwait gives to this vital matter. [passage omitted]

The minister of state for cabinet affairs added that his highness the amir, may God protect him, informed the Council also of the essence of meetings he held on the sidelines of the Conference with leaders of friendly states. These included his meeting with His Excellency the American President, George Bush, to whom he expressed Kuwait's gratitude and thanks for the role played by the United States, under his leadership, in the liberation of Kuwait and in supporting its just rights, all

of which will always remain for Kuwaitis a focus of their pride and appreciation. The amir also informed them of President Bush's confirmation of his country's eagerness for the full implementation of all Security Council resolutions relating to the Kuwait issue. [Passage omitted]

The minister of state for cabinet affairs added that, on the directives of his highness the amir, may God protect him, the Council of Ministers announced the recognition by the State of Kuwait of the republics of Slovenia and Croatia, based on Kuwait's belief in the right of peoples to self-determination and on the UN Charter and in pursuance of establishing constructive relations with the two friendly states for achieving the common interests, wishing the two peoples more progress, prosperity, and stability.

The minister of state for cabinet affairs also said that the Council discussed a draft agreement for defense cooperation between the Republic of France and the State of Kuwait, based on the desire of the two countries to develop the strong ties between them, which are built on mutual respect for the sovereignty of both of them. This agreement aims at enhancing the cooperation between them in the defense field in the of face any threat or aggression against the sovereignty, security, and territorial integrity of the State of Kuwait. It also aims at enhancing all that could contribute to the establishment of the pillars of peace and stability in the region.

The Council decided to pass the draft agreement and to continue the completion of the measures necessary to put the agreement into effect. [passage omitted]

Forces Chief Views Prospect of Gulf Army

PM1806095692 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 16 Jun 92 p 2

[Interview with Staff Major General Jabir al-Khalid al-Sabah, chief of staff, by Siham Harb in Kuwait; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Harb] Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman recently proposed the idea of setting up a unified Gulf army. Has a start been made on implementing the practical steps for realizing that idea? Does Kuwait have a viewpoint in this regard?

[Al-Sabah] The Gulf army idea is one of several issues being discussed by the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states. The strategic issue is the unified Gulf army. The GCC states' initial stances are there. This is proved by the formation of the Peninsula Shield forces, which constitute the nucleus of the Gulf force. They were a spearhead in the liberation of Kuwait. Everyone commended the idea of establishing a unified Gulf army. The studies are based on crystallizing that idea in a manner that suits all the circumstances surrounding the region. I want to add that it is an excellent idea. Its nucleus exists and there are committees discussing it and conducting extensive studies to form the army in the future. The idea proposed by His Majesty Sultan Qabus crystallized at the Gulf summit held in Kuwait recently and at the meetings held by the higher leaderships before it reached us.

[Harb] But some Gulf states opposed the plan.

[Al-Sabah] These are formalities. Perhaps some parties are not opposed but need to study some aspects of the plan or some of the executive ideas. I believe that everyone supports the formation of a unified Gulf force to defend the GCC states. But what form should it take? And what about its size? This is being studied technically. [passage omitted]

[Harb] After the blow dealt to the Iraqi Army, do you believe that it is still necessary to form a Gulf force?

[Al-Sabah] I believe that the GCC states need a force to protect them when necesssary. But what shape should it take? We will leave that to the future, especially since ambitions still exist.

Since Saddam Husayn is still at the head of the Iraqi regime, the threats that we hear daily require us to be alert and ready. The parties which helped and backed him in his aggression on Kuwait still follow him, and this prompts us to believe that the ambitions still exist.

[Harb] What have security agreements given Kuwait?

[Al-Sabah] They have provided friendship, and through them we have proved that we are a state which likes to live in peace in accordance with the stipulations of our Islamic shari'ah and by safeguarding our entity and maintaining our independence. The further the scope of these agreements—which guarantee security, stability, and peace—expands, the more comprehensive world peace becomes.

[Harb] Joint maneuvers between the Kuwaiti and U.S. Armies are continuing. What is your assessment of the results of these maneuvers with regard to the Army's recovery capacity?

[Al-Sabah] Joint maneuvers between the Kuwaiti and U.S. Armies are continuing and have had a great impact on Kuwaiti soldiers thanks to the advanced field and technical experience that they provide. They represent a scientific and field contribution for Kuwaiti soldiers.

[Harb] What stage have you reached in implementing the plan to rebuild the Kuwaiti Army with regard to personnel, armament, and installations?

[Al-Sabah] We have reached a good stage, and things bode well. We completed a number of phases before reaching the situation we are in now. I can say that we have almost completed the process of rebuilding our Armed Forces and moved on to another more advanced phase. [passage omitted]

[Harb] Last, we would like to ask you about the agreement among the eight states [the GCC states plus Egypt and Syria]. Where is it now, since there have been many questions about it?

[Al-Sabah] With regard to the political part, I do not have an answer, because it is not my area of specialization. However, I emphasize that we have military cooperation with both Syria and Egypt. I am in constant contact with my brothers, the chiefs of staff of the states in question.

UN Rebuff of Iraqi Objections on Border Welcomed

LD1906075292 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Excerpts] Dhari 'Abdallah al-'Uthman, minister of state for cabinet affairs, expressed the State of Kuwait's satisfaction with and welcome for yesterday's statement issued by the UN Security Council president in reply to the letter, which was sent by the foreign minister of the Iraqi regime to the UN secretary general on 21 May 1992, on the resolutions adopted by the international commission in charge of the demarcation of borders between Kuwait and Iraq. [passage omitted]

The minister of state for cabinet affairs praised the UN Security Council's stress on the sanctity of the international borders between Kuwait and Iraq as demarcated by the aforementioned commission, the Security Council's guaranteeing of such borders, and the grave consequences which would ensue from any breach thereof. The minister also lauded the Security Council resolution reminding Iraq of its commitment following its acceptance of the Security Council's relevant resolutions, particularly Resolution 687 which was the basis for a cease-fire during the war for the liberation of Kuwait.

The minister of state for cabinet affairs added that the State of Kuwait, while highly appreciative of such a principled and firm stand by the Security Council member state, reaffirms that such a resolution is an actual consecration of the effective role being played by the Security Council to bolster international legality and the UN's sincere efforts to bring about peace, security, justice, and righteousness in the world.

Yemen

Salih Interviewed on Regional, Domestic Issues

JN1806201692 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1715 GMT 18 Jun 92

["Text" of interview with Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, by AL-SHURUQ magazine published in al-Shariqah, the United Arab Emirates, carried within the "News Follow-Ups" program; place and date not given—read by announcer]

[Excerpt] [AL-SHURUQ] The Gulf states blame you for your stand on the Gulf crisis. They say that you supported Iraq, while you [words indistinct]. Can you speak about the misunderstanding here? How do you view [words indistinct] that the crisis had left on inter-Arab relations?

[Salih] First, we do not want to reopen this file. Yemen's stand on the Gulf crisis is clear and principled. We voiced this stand on more than one occasion and through various media and diplomatic channels. However, what we would like to stress is that Yemen has always been against the occupation of others' territory or solving differences by force. We demanded an Arab solution to the crisis. We exerted efforts along with other brothers [words indistinct] this crisis in order to contain it. This is because we had realized the dangers and challenges that this crisis posed to our Arab nation and its future. However, it is regrettable that the accelerating course of events was stronger in its effects and development than any effort that had been exerted or the good intentions that has sought a peaceful solution. In general, we do not want to repeat what we have already said. However, what is important is to benefit from the circumstances in order to overcome the bad traces that the crisis had left in Arab reality. We hope that [words indistinct] dangers and challenges posed by differences and (?disunity). We also hope that a sincere desire will be available to (?resolve) all misunderstandings created by the Gulf crisis among our Arab nation. As for us in the Republic of Yemen, we call for and extend a sincere hand to all our brothers without exception in order to work, proceeding from eagerness and need to overcome differences, to heal the rift in the Arab ranks and to open a new chapter that removes from Arab life these [word indistinct] clouds and pave the way for sound and correct inter-Arab relations and a sincere Arab solidarity based on new foundations and (?facts).

[AL-SHURUQ] It has been leaked that Egypt is mediating between you and some Gulf states. How true is that? How do you describe Yemeni-Egyptian relations?

[Salih] Undoubtedly, sisterly Egypt has an effective role to play in the course of inter-Arab relations. We always appreciate Egypt's role in the service of the Arab nation and in restoring Arab solidarity. As for Yemeni-Egyptian relations, these are brotherly relations which have been baptized by the blood of the two brotherly peoples. These relations are constantly developing in the interest of the two peoples and the Arab nation.

[AL-SHURUQ] Your excellency the president, we have recently noticed that there has been much talk about borders in the region. Does the matter have anything to do with the results of the Gulf crisis, or is it a reflection of a new (?thinking)?

[Salih] Border problems in the region are a colonialist wound [words indistinct] and great problems. In view of the substantial complications and lack of understanding, borders developed into a problem and mines planted

along the path of relations among the area states [words indistinct] relations among Arab brothers. As for us in the Republic of Yemen, we are always eager to resolve border problems through negotiations, dialogue, and understanding, and within the [word indistinct] framework and guaranteeing the legal and historical rights of all parties. This is what we have frequently asserted. This has been included in the statement of the first [words indistinct] the Republic of Yemen. We believe that borders among Arab countries do not pose any problem if good and sincere intentions are available [word indistinct].

[AL-SHURUQ] The cycle of violence Sanaa and [words indistinct] is widening [words indistinct] or is an attempt to undermine unity?

[Salih] Unity is a historic and great achievement. It has faced and is facing numerous challenges by its enemies. [sentence indistinct] It is aimed at destabilizing the country, inciting differences and sedition in Yemeni society, and creating disputes among political parties and organizations in view of the atmosphere of democratic and political and party pluralism that Yemen is enjoying. Our Yemeni people are aware of the dimensions of the scheme and the magnitude of the challenges posed to their unity and new state. However, [words indistinct] to confront it in order to safeguard their democratic march and to successfully build the beloved Yemeni state. This is exactly as their will triumphed in the Yemeni revolution, which faced similar challenges throughout its march. [Words indistinct] of the Yemen people is stronger because it is the will of justice and brotherhood. [passage omitted including indistinct passages]

U.S. Said Burning Wheat, Barley Fields

JN1806114492 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] Agriculture and Irrigation Minister 'Abd-al-Wahhab Mahmud al-Sabbagh has appealed to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization [FAO] to intervene to stop the aggressive American aircraft's crime of burning thousands of dunums of land planted with wheat and barley in villages near the city of Mosul.

In a message to FAO Director General Dr. Edouard Saouma, the minister said that U.S. military planes intentionally set fire to wheat and barley fields in the Governorate of Ninawa, northern Iraq, last week and this week. Thousands of tonnes of wheat and barley were destroyed, he said.

The minister stressed that the ugly crime aims to deprive the Iraqi people of their legitimate right to produce their own food, and to harm the Iraqi peasants, who made painstaking efforts to plant their fields. He said: The FAO, which seeks to fight hunger and poverty, and which works to increase the agricultural production of the world, is called on to intervene promptly to stop the inhumane acts of U.S. warplanes during their continuing flights in northern Iraq.

'Deliberate Torching' Denounced

JN1806140092 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation 'Abd-al-Wahhab Mahmud al-Sabbagh has emphasized that the terrible crime of criminal Bush's aircraft burning wheat and barley in Mosul's villages violates the most basic humanitarian and international conventions.

In a statement to INA, the minister said that the deliberate torching of thousands of dunums of wheat and barley betrays criminal Bush's deep-seated hatred of the Iraqi people.

This ugly crime is a link in the chain of Zionist-imperialist conspiracies calculated to starve the Iraqi people and to keep them from producing their own food and breaking the iniquitous embargo.

He urged international humanitarian organizations to assume their responsibilities and bring to a halt the aggressive actions of criminal Bush who had issued the order to ruin thousands of tons of already harvested cereals.

He emphasized that these aggressive acts rank as the ugliest, disgraceful crimes in history for which criminal Bush and his lieutenants should stand trial.

Bush's 'Crime' Condemned

JN1806140792 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1230 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Jun (INA)—Sa'd Qasim Hammudi, secretary general of the Arab Popular Forces Conference, has described the new U.S. crime of burning wheat and barley farms as terrible immoral (?bankruptcy).

In a statement to INA today, he added that the administration of the war criminal Bush, which is behind this dirty operation, will only reap more hatred from the steadfast Iraqi people, who will become more determined to thwart the conspiracy of the comprehensive blockade that has been in place for more than 22 months.

Sa'd Qasim Hammudi added that this reckless U.S. conduct will strengthen the coalescence of the masses and their struggling leadership, led by President Saddam Husayn. It will also expose more and more the reality and dimensions of the aggressive scheme of the [word indistinct] Atlantic-Zionist dream against Iraq and the Arab nation.

Sa'd Qasim Hammudi also called on political parties, mass federations, professional associations, and nationalist figures all over the greater Arab homeland to denounce and condemn Bush's crime of burning Iraqi farms, call for lifting the unjust economic blockade on the Iraqi people, and work to stop the interference in Iraq's domestic affairs and the attempts to undermine Iraqi national unity.

U.S. 'Pressures' on UN Border Demarcation Noted

JN1806192592 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The United States has once again deliberately circumvented the role of the UN Security Council so as to assume, on its behalf, the decisionmaking role, proceeding from its exposed hegemony over this council and the rest of international bodies.

To acquaint our great people with the aggressive methods being pursued by the United States against Iraq, based on its well-known and twisted methods to peddle its aggressive schemes, INA has reported that the Security Council did not hold a formal session to read the statement agreed upon by the Security Council members yesterday afternoon on the demarcation of the border between Iraq and Kuwait.

The statement was also not read to reporters. The president of the Security Council only gave copies of it to some reporters, given that the statement was supposed to be issued today, Thursday, New York time, as an official document of the Security Council.

The second official at the Iraqi permanent mission in the United Nations has succeeded in getting a copy of the statement, despite the insistence of the president not to hand it to Iraq's permanent representative at the United Nations.

The statement, which described the activity of the Border Demarcation Commission as technical, declares the support of the members for its activity, under clear

U.S. pressure. The members also expressed what the statement called concern over the letter addressed by Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn to the Security Council in this regard on 21 May 1992. It is worth noting that the letter had explained Iraq's historical rights in the area of Kuwait and also showed documents and conclusive evidence of these rights.

Papers Attack UN Statement

JN1906084692 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0725 GMT 19 Jun 92

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 19 Jun (INA)—Two Iraqi newspapers today attack the 17 June Security Council statement issued on the Iraq-Kuwait border demarcation, describing it as a reflection of the U.S. mentality.

The AL-THAWRAH newspaper, mouthpiece of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, says in its editorial: The Security Council statement is not only a U.S. statement in terms of its content and approach, but it also contains several [word indistinct] and unfounded queries. These queries are based on assumptions and interpretations that only exist in the minds of the people who drafted it and who pressed for its endorsement. [passage omitted containing indistinct passages]

The paper reiterates its view that the decision adopted by the Iraq-Kuwait Border Demarcation Commission does not contribute toward security and stability in the region. Instead, it creates a hotbed of permanent tension and plants a highly explosive mine in the area.

The AL-QADISIYAH newspaper also criticizes the Security Council's (?blind submission) to Washington's directives and will, saying that the Security Council has become a docile instrument in the hands of U.S. tyranny.

The newspaper, mouthpiece of the Defense Ministry, says that the Security Council's statement is replete with excuses and fallacious arguments meant to undermine Iraq's [word indistinct] position toward its national rights.

The statement, the paper adds, is a continuation of the logic of force adopted by the Council and its aggressive approach toward Iraq in line with the plans of Bush and the U.S. Administration, which act upon the orders of Zionism. The paper stresses that the Council's conduct means that it is simply a tool to execute the plans of the U.S.-Atlantic-Zionist alliance.

Foreign Minister's Note Protests U-2 Overflights

JN1706100092 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0810 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] New York, 17 Jun (INA)—Iraq has condemned the unjustified violations of our airspace by the American U-2 plane.

An INA correspondent in New York cited a letter from Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn to UN Secretary General Butrus Ghali last night as saying that the plane violated Iraqi airspace three times on 8, 10, and 15 June. Coming from Saudi territory, the plane overflew areas in the central, northern, and western regions of Iraq for long hours before leaving Iraqi airspace toward Saudi Arabia, the letter said.

The minister explained in the letter that the three new violations brought the total number of violations perpetrated by this plane to 58.

The letter reiterated the position that Iraq had always expressed; namely, that the plane is being used for purposes irrelevant to those defined by the Security Council, and that its activity harms Iraq's security and sovereignty.

U.S. 'Evil' Plan To Tighten Siege Through Jordan

JN1806134992 Baghdad INA in English 1230 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] Baghdad, June 18, INA—AL-THAWRAH daily for today described the U.S. attempts to tighten the blockade imposed on the people of Iraq through Jordan as an evil plan meant to subdue the Iraqis' will and derail them from their principles and optimism.

In an article published today, the daily said the new plan proved how far the U.S. Administration had gone in the conspiracy it designed against Iraq following the failure of all its attempts to destroy this nation and topple its leadership.

The daily made it clear that Iraq's heroic steadfastness would long remind U.S. President George Bush of the bitter defeat he sustained when he tried to carry out his hostile plans against Iraq.

It concluded the Jordan's rejection of the American plan represented an extension of the genuine national stance this Arab country had assumed in support of Iraq, in spite of the blockade imposed on it by the U.S. ships in the Red Sea and the port of al-'Aqaba.

'Aziz Returns From Algeria, Morocco Visits

JN1806192892 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz, envoy of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn to Algerian State Council Chairman Mohamed Boudiaf and Moroccan King Hassan II, returned to Baghdad today.

The envoy of the president leader delivered two messages from his excellency to the Algerian president and the Moroccan king on relations between the two fraternal countries and ways of developing them, the circumstances of the unjust blockade imposed on our country, as well as developments in the Arab region and the world.

Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz had earlier led Iraq's delegation to the UN Conference on Environment and Development, which was held in Rio de Janeiro between 3-14 June.

Health Minister Returns From Geneva Meeting

JN1706164592 Baghdad INA in English 1620 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] Baghdad, June 17, INA—Dr Umid Midhat Mubarak, minister of health and acting minister of labour and social affairs, returned home after taking part in a three-week 79th session of the International Labour Organization [ILO] held in Geneva.

Dr Mubarak told the INA that he reviewed in his speech before the conferees the tragic effects created by the U.N. imposed inequitable economic blockade on Iraq, calling the ILO to undertake its resposibilities of lifting the blockade and render all forms of assistance to allivate suffering of the Iraqi people.

The minister added that the Iraqi delegation had foiled a draft resolution by the Kuwaiti delegation to get illegitimate compensations, but it withdrew it.

Yemeni Envoy Hails Saddam's 'Struggling Position'

JN1706202292 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and vice president, has received 'Abd-al-Sattar 'Abd-al-Ghani al-Shammari, director of the Yemeni National Charter Institute and member of the Standing Committee of the General People's Congress in Yemen.

Taha Yasin Ramadan said that leader President Saddam Husayn and the elements of strength and courage that he possesses, and Iraq's strong nation, all give evidence of the strength of the Arabs and their readiness to confront enemies, whatever their strength.

'Abd-al-Sattar al-Shammari hailed the courageous struggling position of the Iraqi people, under the leadership of struggler leader President Saddam Husayn, during the immortal confrontation of the Mother of Battles.

Iraqi Airways Suspends All Domestic Flights

JN1806111992 Baghdad AL-'IRAQ in Arabic 16 Jun 92 p 2

[Text] Baghdad—IRAQI NEWS AGENCY—Iraqi Airways has decided to stop all its domestic flights as of yesterday [15 June] and until further notice.

Explaining the reasons, Iraqi Airways Director General Nur-al-Din Safi Hammadi told INA that the planes are expired, and that spare parts are unavailable because of the unjust blockade being imposed on Iraq.

He called on the competent quarters in the countries where Iraqi Airways planes have been stationed since the sinful aggression against Iraq—namely, Iran, Tunisia, and Jordan—to return the planes so that Iraq can resume its domestic and foreign flights pursuant to Security Council Resolutions 661 of 6 August 1990, and 670 of 25 September 1990, which allowed Iraqi planes to fly the world's airspace.

He said Iraqi Airways planes were operating normally before and after the issuance of the two resolutions. The company transported thousands of foreign nationals from Iraq to various parts of the world before Iraq was subjected to the military attack on the midnight of 16-17 January 1991.

Mr. Nur-al-Din Safi put the company's losses sustained as a result of a year and a half of suspended flights at more than $200 million. In addition, he said, the jobs of more than 4,000 pilots, engineers, technicians, and administrative staff have been suspended.

Saddam Orders Release of 'Renegade' Iraqi POW's

JN1706121192 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, has ordered the release of the detained, renegade prisoners of war [POW's] lured by the Iranian authorities, who had given themselves up to our valiant Armed Forces units or to party and administrative services.

The IRAQI NEWS AGENCY has learned that leader President Saddam Husayn has also ordered the pardoning of the renegade POW's who will give themselves up to our Armed Forces units and party and administrative services in the future.

This human act of generosity on the part of the leader president is aimed to give a chance to those who became so blind as to line up with the enemies and agents who plan evil for great Iraq and its virtuous sons. It also seeks to give a chance to any remaining sense of nationalism inside perverted souls and for them to reconsider their conduct and start a new chapter by joining the convoys of mujahidin in the march of development and reconstruction of what the aggressors sabotaged. The step is aimed to give these people a chance to really belong to this faithful, great people, and because God almighty said in his cherished book: "Forgiveness is the nearest to righteousness." [part of a koranic verse]

Reportage on Opposition, Comments on Conference

Leader Urges Unity, End of Saddam

NC1606212492 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Text] Iraqi Communist Party Secretary General 'Aziz Muhammad has emphasized that toppling Saddam Husayn's dictatorial regime and setting up a democratic system in its place would reflect the aspirations of all Iraqis and end the difficult situation in Iraq.

In an interview with SAWT AL-KUWAYT published today, 'Aziz Muhammad said that the only way to resolve the Iraqi people's problems is to get rid of

Saddam's dictatorship and achieve democracy in Iraq. He criticized the Iraqi opposition forces for not making the necessary efforts to unify their ranks. 'Aziz Muhammad noted that although there is a kind of unity among the Iraqi opposition forces and factions, this unity still has not reached the standard dictated by the current situation.

In the interview, 'Aziz Muhammad said that the tyrant regime might exploit the Iraqi opposition's present situation to improve its conditions and prolong its stay in power.

Al-Da'wah—Vienna Conference 'Failed'

NC1806101992 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1600 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Text] Jawad al-Maliki, a member of the political bureau of the Islamic al-Da'wah Party in Iraq, has said the unity of the Iraqi opposition forces is the only means to the common objective, eliminating Saddam Husayn's regime.

In a statement issued in Damascus today on the occasion of the convening of the [opposition] conference slated for Vienna, al-Maliki said opposition parties inside and outside the joint action committee had failed to reach a consensus on the conference. He said the conference had failed to define the objectives, the mechanism of action, the command formations, and field programs.

The al-Da'wah Party reportedly does not approve of the conference nor does it believe it can achieve the opposition forces' objectives.

'Political Measures' Advocated

AU1806160292 Vienna DER STANDARD in German 17-18 Jun 92 p 4

[APA report: "End Must Be Put to Massacres"]

[Text] Vienna—Iraqi opposition leader Mohammad Mohammad 'Ali called for Iraq's exclusion from the United Nations. Before the Iraqi National Congress in Vienna, in which about 140 opponents of the Iraqi regime are participating, the Shi'ite member of the "Iraqi Islamic Council" stated on 16 June that the present UN sanctions affect the population above all. Therefore, punitive political measures against Saddam Husayn's regime are mandatory. "An end must be put to the massacres."

Mohammad 'Ali reported on the dramatic situation in the swamp areas of southern Iraq. In this area, which is as large as Switzerland, tens of thousands of people are exposed to attacks by Saddam's troops every day. Neither old people nor women nor children are spared. The people are constantly attempting to escape between the cities, swamp areas, and Iranian border.

Mohammad 'Ali called for the final implementation of Resolution 688 of the UN Security Council, which calls on Baghdad to halt the oppression against the population. He advocated a joint course of action for all Iraqi opposition groups, including the Kurds, against Saddam's regime. The people are to democratically decide on the future form of the state, he said.

Talabani on 'Independent' United Opposition

PM1806143692 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 16 Jun 92 p 5

[Report by 'Ismat Umsat: "Talabani Tells AL-HAYAH: We Want Independent Iraqi Opposition"]

[Excerpts] Ankara—Jalal Talabani, secretary general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, has emphasized the need to establish a unified "and independent" Iraqi opposition against President Saddam Husayn's regime, not an opposition under the banner of an alternative government in Baghdad.

In a statement to AL-HAYAH, Talabani challenged the Shiite opposition groups with regard to the major opposition group's conference in Vienna today. He admitted that some Iraqi quarters criticized these meetings. He said that the "groups criticizing the conference are the Iraqi Communist Party, the Ba'th Party, and Islamic circles." He responded to the recent assertion by an Iraqi Shiite leader that Iraqi opposition figures intend to hold a general conference within two months to thwart the proceedings of the conference in the Austrian capital. He said that the Vienna conference represents a broader base of the Iraqi opposition. [passage omitted]

Talabani said: "We are not against any Iraqi conference. But we believe that the (Vienna) conference represents some major groups and some forces independent of the influence of governments. It is better for an independent Iraqi opposition to emerge." Talabani concluded a one-week visit to Turkey and left for Vienna yesterday to attend the opposition conference. [passage omitted]

Talabani told AL-HAYAH that he explained to Turkish officials "the real situation and developments in Iraq and that there was nothing to fear. We believe that they are fully aware of the real aims of our parliament and administration" in Kurdistan.

The most important question raised during Talabani's talks with Turkish officials was to extend the Western forces' presence on Turkish territory to deter any Iraqi attack on the Kurds in the North. The "new Kurdish administration" in the border area with Turkey will take a series of steps against the separatist Kurdish Workers Party [PKK], which is outlawed in Ankara, to prevent its elements from launching attacks across the border on targets in Turkish territory.

Talabani said that he informed Turkish officials that "the new (Kurdish) administration will seek first to maintain security in the area and to control the borders. When it is able to do so, we will not allow any activities against Turkey." [passage omitted]

Talabani told AL-HAYAH that the party managed to smuggle some of its members out of Lebanon's al-Biqa'

valley, adding that some of the party's armed members were seen in Mosul and Baghdad. He went on: I do not know where PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan is, but he might be in Baghdad." He said that the party, which claims to have killed 3,900 people since 1984, has only 2,000 armed fighters, "most of them illiterate Turkish Kurds." He pointed out that the [Kurdistan] Front has made no contacts with the party since last February, when it sent three members to attend a Kurdish conference. They criticized the Iraqi Kurds' leadership at the conference.

He said that the party has only one option—to lay down its arms very soon and to evacuate its forces from north Iraq. He added: "The PKK or any other Kurdish organization living in Iraqi Kurdistan must either respect the law or leave."

With regard to extending the Western coalition forces' presence—which awaits a decision from the Turkish parliament—Talabani said: "We demand that it be extended as long as necessary and as long as Saddam Husayn remains in power." He expressed his optimism about the Turkish Government's support of his views. [passage omitted]

Kurds Demand Self-Determination

NC1906074092 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1600 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] The Voice of the Iraqi People has learned from its own sources inside the Vienna conference that the Kurds who attended it were very vehement in their speeches with regard to their demand for the conferees' recognition of the Kurds' right to self-determination and for considering Iraq's unity a matter of choice in return for the Kurdistan Front's continued coordination with the Arabs who attended the conference.

The sources in the conference said that the non-Kurdish conferees found themselves in a real dilemma. They did not expect the Kurds to be so insistent on linking their participation in opposing Saddam Husayn's regime to obtaining a document in which the participants pledge to grant the Kurds the right to self-determination, even if it leads to some sort of secession.

The sources added that the Arabs attending the conference exerted strenuous efforts to convince the Kurds not to insist on the conditional linkage between their issue and that of Iraq because this linkage embarrasses them before the Iraqi opposition groups that boycotted the conference. The latter were aware of this pitfall the representatives of the Kurdistan Front were planning to force the conference into.

The conferees are holding secret sessions at the Hilton Hotel to find a face-saving way out and to spare the Iraqi Arabs who convened the conference the questions and doubts raised about the conference objectives, especially as certain foreign circles worked hard to convince the Iraqi opposition to attend it.

Paper Terms Opposition Leaders 'Stray Individuals'

JN1806085792 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0715 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Jun (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH says that Iraq is open to all honorable men and honest nationalists to contribute to the new stage—the stage of political pluralism and democratic expansion—with a view toward (? building) unified and prosperous Iraq.

In an article appearing in today's issue, the paper says that leaders of the so-called Iraqi opposition are known by our people, and the false halo lent to them by the West [words indistinct] for the role they will play in the so-called Iraq's political future will not change the known fact; namely, that they sold themselves out to foreigners.

These stray individuals, the paper adds, are begging this and that and living on leftovers of foreigners; they never hesitate to announce the truth of their affiliations. These are the weapons America and its Western allies are using to make threats.

Concluding, the paper says: Those who claim to represent the people of Iraq [word indistinct] by practice, not by clownishness, allegations, and losing conferences. The representatives of our people are those who led the assembly of faith in the battle against the assembly of atheism and aggression.

Kurdish Radio on Extending Poised Hammer Mandate

JN1606180592 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Station commentary: "A Quick Look at Extending the Mandate of the Rapid Deployment Force"]

[Excerpts] Dear listeners: At the end of June, the mandate of the Rapid Deployment Force, or Poised Hammer, stationed at Turkey's Incirlik Air Base—the force that has been protecting Iraq's Kurds from any possible Iraqi attack since last year's events—will expire, if it is not extended for another term. The mandate of this force, which is stationed in the southeast of Turkey, was extended many times in the past because the reasons for its presence still exist. At the end of each term, the region witnesses substantial diplomatic activities in Ankara, Paris, London, and Washington. These activities expand until they reach the United Nations in New York, where the Security Council will make the final decision. [passage omitted]

It is certain that Iraq exerts its utmost to prevent the extension of the allied forces' presence for another term. It hopes very much that one of the parties will not support the extension, thereby, giving its forces the opportunity to launch a new genocidal war against the Kurds and to impose its hegemony anew over the liberated areas of Iraq in the north or the south.

There is no doubt that the limited presence of the Poised Hammer force in the region has encouraged the Iraqi Government to procrastinate in concluding a new agreement with the political leadership of the Kurdistan Front and to wait for the allied forces' mandate to expire and for their withdrawal from the region. This is the main cause behind the Iraqi authorities' efforts to gain time and to prolong the negotiations that were accompanied by their efforts to rebuild their armed forces and redeploy them in areas adjacent to the liberated areas in Kurdistan and the southern marshlands.

Brother struggler Mas'ud Barzani conveyed these facts to the capitals he visited during his European tour this winter. In light of these facts; to remove any concern engulfing our Kurdish people and the Iraqi people in general; taking into consideration any expected or unexpected eventuality; and on the occasion of the ongoing preparations and talks to extend the mandate of the allied forces in Turkey, we propose the following:

1. The presence of the allied forces in the region should be linked with the need to find a final solution to the issue of Kurdish democracy in Iraq. No deadline for the presence of these forces should be defined.

2. The Kurdistan Front should be prepared for any eventuality by pooling all efforts and potentials to deter any possible danger. It should close peshmerga ranks, form a united and revolutionary Kurdish army, restore the people's confidence in themselves and in it, and expedite the building of new democratic institutions and rebuilding Kurdistan villages. The front should also not fully rely on foreign aid despite its great importance. Consolidating the internal front is the only guarantee for deterring any danger.

3. The Iraqi Government should be concerned about the unity of Iraq's people and territory. It should not relinquish Iraq's sovereignty as it did in 1975 when it conceded part of Iraq's land and territorial waters to foreigners for no reason but to strike at the Kurdish liberation movement. Thereafter, it was forced to wage wars to evade its promises and to go back on the ill-omened Algiers Agreement, which was an important factor in the outbreak of the second Gulf war and of the destruction of Iraq's human and material potential. The Iraqi authorities know this series of events well. Meanwhile, the Kurdish problem remains as it is, despite all that has taken place. It is more honorable to affiliate the Kurdish areas, such as Karkuk, with the Kurdistan Region and autonomy than making concessions to foreigners.

PUK—Multinational Forces Should Stay

JN1806191492 (Clandestine) Kurdistan Voice of Unification in Arabic 1738 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] London—Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK], has said that the mandate for the multinational force working in the south eastern part of Anatolia should be extended.

In a press conference held in Ankara, Talabani affirmed the continuation of the Iraqi regime's threats against the people of Iraqi Kurdistan. He added that the multinational force will work to prevent another human disaster in the region. He also expressed the Kurdish people's thanks to Turkey for its support and assistance.

Talabani said that the Iraqi administration is ready to launch a war against Turkey. He said: They presented some documents to UN officials that confirm this.

Talabani Interviewed on Kurdistan Elections

PM1606102592 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 13 Jun 92 p 5

[Part one of interview with Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, by 'Adnan Husayn in Shaqlawah; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Husayn] Now that the elections for the local Kurdish parliament have ended and their results have been announced, what is your opinion of them and the legal violations that accompanied them? Are you satisfied with the outcome?

[Talabani] I believe that the first winner in these elections is the Kurdish people, and I hope that the Iraqi people will be the second winner. As for the parties, not a single party has achieved the results which it thought it deserved. Our party, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, thought it would obtain 55-60 percent of the votes, the Democratic Party of Kurdistan thought it would get 70 percent of the votes, and others too hoped to secure better results than they actually achieved. Consequently everyone ended up dissatisfied with the results. The most notable point about the elections is the fact that they were held in a democratic atmosphere. The election campaign was characterized by peacefulness, activeness, and effectiveness. [passage omitted]

Admittedly, the process was subject to dissent and objections, but on the other hand it ended with an outcome which all Kurdish parties accepted, albeit reluctantly, in order to safeguard the unity of Kurdish ranks and to portray the Kurds as civilized people before the world.

I personally believe that the elections proved that the Kurdish people are worthy of freedom and capable of engaging in democracy and the electoral process, despite the lack of experience. They also proved that the enemies' expectations were wrong. This is because the fascist (Iraqi) government pinned great hopes on stirring up the dispute between the Patriotic Union and the Democratic Party. In fact many observers and friends were concerned that the elections might lead to battles among us, but the outcome was contrary to that. That democratic atmosphere leads us to another conclusion, namely that this people can exercise government in their region and that they deserve to enjoy the right to self-determination within a unified democratic Iraq. [passage omitted]

[Husayn] I would like to move on to a subject which we discussed during my interview with you on the eve of the elections: You of the Patriotic Union are raising the slogan of self-determination for the Kurdish people, and some people have understood it to mean a call for secession, but you are now linking the situation in Kurdistan with the situation in Iraq as a whole.

[Talabani] I repeat once again that as far as we are concerned, the fundamental question now is democracy. I always describe democracy as the remedy for all ills resulting from the Saddam cancer. We primarily want to end dictatorship and replace it with parliamentary pluralism within a democratic Iraq liberated from fascist dictatorship. We are calling for the Kurdish people's right to self-determination; in other words, we want this people to be asked in a free referendum what they want. Autonomy, federalism, or confederalism? How do they want to organize their relations with the central government in Iraq? That is our clear and frank understanding of the right to self-determination. Of course, if such a referendum takes place, we will not encourage people to vote for autonomy, because we believe that autonomy cannot resolve the nationality issue in any country. And the Kurdish issue is not an ordinary issue. It has been raging for decades, and failure to resolve it has hampered normal life in Iraq, so it must be resolved radically. In our view, autonomy is not the remedy, and one must think about federalism or confederation, that is, according to what the Iraqi people's sons—Arabs and Kurds—agree. I would like to tell you that many Iraqi political forces have started to accept that view. For example, we have recently agreed with His Eminence Muhammah Baqir al-Hakim, chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, on that solution. I mean a constitutional, democratic, parliamentary Iraq in which the Kurdish people have the right to self-determination within Iraqi territorial integrity. [passage omitted]

Kurdish Government To Be Formed 'Soon'

NC1706192392 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK], said yesterday that a regional government [hukumah iqlimiyah] will be formed in the Kurdish areas in northern Iraq in the next few weeks. He said this step follows an agreement among the various Kurdish political groups.

Senior Officers Attempted Coup 'Last Week'

NC1906040192 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1320 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] The hated Saddamist regime has recently admitted that a number of senior Iraqi Armed Fores officers attempted to carry out a coup. The coup was attempted last week during a ceremony marking the completion of repair work at al-Jumhuriyah bridge in Baghdad.

Following the attempt, the 'Aflaqite authorities mounted a large-scale campaign of arrests and searched homes of a number of retired senior military officers. The campaign covered [shamalat] approximately 3,200 servicemen of various ranks and services.

'Mercenaries' Killed in Recent Operations

NC1806153892 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1320 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] Early this month, a jihad group of our popular forces killed 30 of Saddam's mercenaries on al-Turabah road in al-Basrah Governorate. The group also destroyed a military vehicle and other military hardware.

The sons of our Islamic revolution also attacked Saddam's troops in (al-Hayadir) in al-Basrah Governorate, gaining control of the main street for several hours in the process. The attack resulted in the destruction of a number of military vehicles. Several mercenaries were killed in the attack, including the commander of an Army company.

As part of the purge-and-liquidation campaign waged by our brave mujahidin, the just sentence of God was meted out to the following traitors and criminals in the past few days:

1. Criminal 'Ali Jabbar Karim, from the security service in al-Basrah. Our mujahidin expropriated his weapon, an 8.5-mm pistol.

2. Criminal 'Ali Husayn, a deputy security commander in Chabaish.

3. Criminal Jum'ah Furayyih al-Bawi, a deputy intelligence chief in Abu-Sutur, near Qal'at Salih.

4. Criminal 'Ali Faysal 'Itri, from al-Madinah near al-Basrah.

5. Criminal Major Hasan Mahdi Al Hammudah, director of al-Basrah Intelligence Department.

The hand of justice will reach all those who are tempted to fight against the masses and will send them to hell.

Palestinians Meet Overtly With 'Arafat in Jordan

Delegates Hold Consultations in Jordan

TA1806173192 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1630 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] Faysal al-Husayni and Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi led some members of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks on a visit to Jordan today. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that the Palestinian delegation will hold consultations in Jordan on the peace process. Different scenarios that might emanate from the Israeli elections and the effect of the elections on the peace talks will also be discussed. Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, the delegation's spokesman, arrived in Amman to join the consultations and discussions.

'Arafat Meets 'Ashrawi, al-Husayni

TA1806202992 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1825 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] A public meeting between representatives from the territories and Yasir 'Arafat and other members of the upper PLO echelons took place for the first time in Amman today. The meeting was described as a conference to assess the situation and make preparations in anticipation of the next stage of the peace talks. Faysal al-Husayni and Hanan 'Ashrawi are seen here hugging PLO chief 'Arafat—Hanan 'Ashrawi and Yasir 'Arafat.

The visiting delegation from the territories also includes Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks. This is the first overt meeting between members of the Palestinian delegation and PLO leaders. Observers in Amman believe that the Amman talks and the publicity they were accorded were designed to test again the Israeli policy concerning the ban on meetings with the PLO. The PLO ambassador in Amman said the meeting is a proof that the PLO is the element steering the Palestinian delegation to the talks. 'Arafat's aide, Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, said the meeting was designed to convey a message of peace to the people of Israel before the elections.

Shamir Adviser on 'Flaunted' Meeting

TA1906051892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 19 Jun 92

[Telephone interview with Ehud Gol, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's media adviser, by Arye Golan—live]

[Text] [Golan] Good morning, Ehud.

[Gol] Good morning, Arye.

[Golan] So now we have a filmed meeting between members of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks with Israel and PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat. What does Israel do now?

[Gol] Well, we certainly take a very serious view of this meeting. Undoubtedly, the way this meeting was flaunted constitutes another stage in the series of provocations carried out by the al-Husayni and 'Ashrawi duo. We shall definitely adopt the appropriate response to their behavior and to the behavior of the others, whose identity we still have to precisely establish.

[Golan] Will this pair, as you described Hanan 'Ashrawi and Faysal al-Husayni, be arrested upon their return to Israel?

[Gol] I do not think that the steps to be taken should be discussed publicly at this stage. We shall definitely adopt the appropriate response to their demonstrative actions. I am not talking right now about the meeting's effusive nature but about the way it was publicized and flaunted, about its provocative aspect. This applies both to the duo and the others. The affair will be carefully studied and steps will be taken. At this stage, however, it would be undesirable and illogical to enter into a public debate on the actions Israel will take.

[Golan] Does Israel differentiate between the meetings of Faysal al-Husayni and Hanan 'Ashrawi, who only accompany the delegation and do not actually sit down at the negotiating table with Israel, and the presence of Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, the head of the Palestinian delegation, whom we also saw there?

[Gol] Certainly there is room for some distinction here because, when all things are said and done, neither al-Husayni nor 'Ashrawi are members of the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation negotiating with us, as opposed to 'Abd-al-Shafi and others—we still do not know exactly who was there—who acted in the same way. These are aspects that we shall have to examine and consider accordingly. As I said before, the nature of the steps we shall take is not the kind of thing we can discuss publicly at this stage.

[Golan] Will we meet with these people in Rome?

[Gol] First of all, we wanted the round of talks in Rome to take place before 23 June. To our great regret, the other side refused to hold the talks, using the Israeli elections as a pretext.

[Golan] Perhaps they were planning one more meeting—the one we saw on television yesterday.

[Gol] We wanted to hold a meeting in Rome to discuss peace. Apparently, they think differently.

[Golan] Thank you very much, Mr. Ehud Gol, the prime minister's media adviser.

Gol—'Yet Another Provocation'

TA1906060492 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 19 Jun 92

[Telephone interview with Ehud Gol, the prime minister's media adviser, by Mikha Friedman and Gilat Levi—live]

[Excerpts] [Friedman] Good morning, Mr. Ehud Gol.

[Gol] And a good morning to you.

[Friedman] Up till now, we could play it coy, claiming that we saw, heard, and knew nothing. Even assuming this was true, now—with these embarrassing photographs—there is no choice but to prosecute all those people who have apparently clearly violated the law against meeting with the PLO. Is that not the case?

[Gol] Well, at this stage, I would not like to go into detail regarding Israel's future steps. I can only quote remarks made by your correspondent a few moments ago: We definitely consider this yet another provocation in a long series of demonstrative and provocative actions. We will definitely adopt the appropriate response to the behavior that was manifested yesterday.

[Levi] Some people have talked about a prior understanding with elements in the Israeli defense establishment and the political echelon. These sources claim that a decision was made not to prosecute the members of the Palestinian delegation in any event.

[Gol] Whoever made these statements has no idea what he is talking about. There was no prior understanding or agreements on this matter. There is no way we could reach a prior understanding on a meeting with Yasir 'Arafat, whose hands are covered with blood.

[Levi] Was there no American appeal to let the Palestinians meet with 'Arafat?

[Gol] There was no appeal whatsoever from the United States, and even had there been such an appeal—and, I repeat, there was not—we would have rejected it. [passage omitted]

[Levi] Will international public opinion permit Israel to prosecute them?

[Gol] I have not said exactly what steps we will take; however, I believe that we must give priority to what is desirable and important for us and not to international public opinion. We cannot ignore this aspect, of course, but it will not be our main consideration.

[Friedman] By the way, how did Yitzhaq Shamir react to this incident?

[Gol] He certainly took a very grave view of it.

[Friedman] Thank you, Mr. Gol.

Moledet Calls for Delegates' Arrest

TA1906074892

[Editorial Report] Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0600 GMT on 19 June reports that "Knesset Member [MK] Rehav'am Ze'evi, head of the Moledet party, has called on the government to arrest all the members of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks who met with Yasir 'Arafat in Amman yesterday. He demanded that criminal charges be brought against them immediately upon their return to Israel. Ze'evi said the meeting is a provocation and shows disdain for Israeli law.

Tehiya MK Elyaqim Ha'etzni lodged a complaint with the police against the delegation members, in which he demanded that they be arrested."

Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0700 GMT on 19 June reports that "MK Yosi Sarid, head of the Meretz reaction team, called on the government to refrain from taking any steps against the Palestinian leaders who met with Yasir 'Arafat yesterday. Sarid told our correspondent Sheli Yehimovich that the law prohibiting meetings with PLO members is worthless and totally unjust. He asserted that the outgoing government should not complicate the negotiations with the Palestinians and get Israel in trouble with the international community."

'Ashrawi—PLO Meetings To Continue

TA1906092592 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 19 Jun 92 pp A1, A8

[Report by Gay Bekhor and 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Contacted by phone in Amman after the meeting with Yasir 'Arafat yesterday, Palestinian delegate Hanan 'Ashrawi told HA'ARETZ: "We will continue to meet with PLO officials openly, and Israel must understand that this is a fact. Israel is burying its head in the sand and refuses to understand that there can be no peace process without the PLO."

'Ashrawi added that the meeting had been "a thorough and comprehensive session to prepare the Palestinian side of the next phase of the peace talks. Everybody knows that there can be no peace process or positive Palestinian decision without the PLO. For the sake of the comprehensive peace process, the Palestinian side must be unanimous in its positions." [passage omitted]

Milo—'Ashrawi, al-Husayni To Be Arrested

TA1906102092 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 19 Jun 92

[Text] Police Minister Roni Milo has said that the members of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, Hanan 'Ashrawi and Faysal al-Husayni, will be arrested as soon as they return to Israel—this because they met with PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat in Amman. Minister Milo added that this was a deliberate and blatant violation of the country's laws. Our correspondent Ilan Lazerovich reports that the police minister was speaking before the Hilton Visa Club.

Gorbachev—Yeltsin 'Speculating' on U.S. POW's

TA1806154892 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Report by Yaron Ben-'Ami on news conference held by Mikhail Gorbachev at Ben-Gurion Airport prior to his departure from Israel]

[Text] Gorbachev spoke about his visit to Israel and praised his hosts and the sights. He was asked about the U.S. POW's who may or may not be on Russian territory, an issue raised in the United States by Boris Yeltsin, who said that there were U.S. POW's on Russian soil. Here is what Mikhail Gorbachev said:

[Gorbachev, in Russian, with superimposed Hebrew translation] I heard what the Russian president said in the United States. He gave some sensational news, about which I and others know nothing. He said such people may be on Russian soil, and I felt he was speculating. If I were in his shoes, I would not speculate on such an issue. It seems to me that his allegations about former rulers simply are an attempt on his part to join the ranks of Gorbachev's detractors, and I do not want to elaborate on the issue.

U.S. 'Officially' Alerted to Iranian Threat

TA1906095892 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 19 Jun 92 p A1

[Report by political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Excerpt] Israel has officially alerted the United States about Iran's threats to peace in the Middle East and expressed concern about the Tehran Government's anti-Israeli statements.

Foreign Minister David Levi summoned U.S. Ambassador William Harrop on Tuesday [16 June] and asked him to relay Israel's concern to his government. Levi cautioned against developments similar to those that led to the Gulf war. Once again the world sits idly by as an extremist regime in the Middle East acquires nuclear weapons and threatens stability in the region, Levi said. Amb. Harrop replied that the United States shares Israel's concern and constantly follows Iran's behavior.

Levi told Harrop that Russia and other CIS republics are among Iran's main arms suppliers. It has been learned from Western sources that Levi also raised this issue in his meetings with Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and other European foreign ministers in Lisbon a few weeks ago.

In those meetings, as well as in his session with Harrop, Levi argued that Iran and Syria are behind the Shiite terrorist organizations operating against Israel from Lebanese territory. The foreign minister stressed that Israel cannot afford to act only when the threat becomes immediate because it could be too late, and this is why the threat must be tackled ahead of time. [passage omitted]

Former Commander Faults U.S. in Gulf War

TA1806174492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1700 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Excerpt] Former Air Force Commander Avihu Bin-Nun has accused the Americans of not taking real action to stop the firing of Iraqi missiles on Israel. Bin-Nun, who served as commander during the Gulf war, said the Americans carried out 109,000 sorties over Iraq during the Gulf war, but only about 3,000 were aimed at destroying Scud launchers.

During the war, Bin-Nun said, the Americans were asked why they did not use 250 Apache helicopters in the anti-Scud action. Their replies were, as Bin-Nun put it, enough to make one cry.

Bin-Nun also said American intelligence during the war was very bad. [passage omitted]

'Reservations' About Criticism

TA1906103992 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 19 Jun 92

[Text] Senior military sources have expressed reservations about the criticism leveled at the United States by former Air Force Commander Avihu Bin-Nun, who said that the Americans did not try to prevent the launching of missiles during the Gulf war. Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the sources asserted that these remarks were unfair to the Americans and were inaccurate.

The military sources explained that we must not ignore the fact that the United States fought against a dangerous enemy of Israel and is continuing to support activity to eliminate Iraq's nonconventional capability. The United States took its operations against the Scud launchers seriously, and these activities endangered the lives of U.S. servicemen.

Mubarak To Cooperate With 'Any' Prime Minister

TA1806204292 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] Egyptian President Husni Mubarak has said that he will cooperate with any prime minister elected in Israel. The Egyptian president made this observation in a meeting with Deputy Minister Menahem Porush in Alexandria. Mr. Porush, who returned to Israel tonight, said the talk dealt mainly with political issues and that he had conveyed an oral message from Yitzhaq Shamir to the Egyptian president.

Mr. Porush told our correspondent Ron Nesi'el that the Egyptian president promised to act for a solution of the problem of the Israeli MIA's in Lebanon.

German Claims to Have Information on Ron Arad

TA1906084292 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 19 Jun 92 p 1

[Report by military correspondent Dani Sade]

[Text] Yesterday Israel asked Germany whether reports that it has some information about the fate of captive Israeli navigator Ron Arad are true.

Schmidbauer, a state minister in the German chancellor's office, told YEDI'OT AHARONOT two days ago that he knows things about the Israeli navigator "but cannot speak out."

In the wake of these remarks, Israel asked Germany through various channels to check whether it indeed has any information on the issue.

Uri Lubrani, head of the negotiating team on the issue of the Israeli POW's and MIA's, responded to the German minister's remarks yesterday by saying: "Unfortunately, we know nothing about Ron Arad's fate. We have been trying through every possible means to get information about him."

Reportage on Continuing Violence in S. Lebanon

Two Soldiers Injured

TA1806162592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Excerpt] Two IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers were injured in an exchange of fire in the eastern sector of the security zone in south Lebanon this afternoon. The IDF spokesman announced that an IDF detail on duty in the eastern sector came under fire from outside the security zone, as a result of which two soldiers were slightly injured. The detail returned fire. Soldiers found and detonated an explosive device on the site. The IDF spokesman announced that IDF soldiers are continuing their activities in the security zone. [passage omitted]

Planes Safe After Raid on Hizballah

TA1806202192 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Excerpt] Air Force planes tonight attacked a Hizballah target in the village of al-Siddiqin, north of Yatar. The target was hit, and all our planes returned safely to base. [passage omitted]

SLA Expels 5 Shiite Families

TA1806165892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] Five Shiite families from the villages of Hula and 'Aytarun have been expelled by the SLA [South Lebanese Army] command from the security zone in southern Lebanon. They were transported aboard armored personnel carriers to the Bayt Yahun checkpoint.

Explaining the step at a news conference in Tyre, members of the families said they were expelled because of their sons' refusal to join the SLA. The SLA explanation, as communicated to our correspondent Hayim Hecht, is totally different. General Lahd's command announced that the expelled families' sons had defected from the SLA and passed information concerning SLA methods of operation to terrorists.

IAF Chief—More Pilots, Operating Time Needed

TA1806182692 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 18 Jun 92 p 4

[Report by On Levi]

[Text] "We need more pilots to control our airspace at night. Compared to the threat it faces, the Israel Air Force [IAF] is too small." IAF chief Herzl Bodinger stated on the occasion of Air Force Day, being marked today. Major General Bodinger said the IAF's main effort in the past had been to reduce the time between one sortie and the next, and it had operated mainly in the daytime. Current technological advances, however, enable efficient performance at night and allow us to double the IAF's capacity by operating our jets around the clock, Gen. Bodinger stated.

In an interview published by BIT'ON HEYL HA'AVIR today, Gen. Bodinger said that the move to around-the-clock operations should be done gradually and carefully. "Our goal is to reach a situation where we have no dead time. The planes will fly continuously, and only the crews will change. To attain that goal the IAF needs more pilots. In order to train more pilots we need more fuel, spare parts, technicians, and working hours," he asserted.

The IAF chief noted that these changes require the chief of staff's approval. "Once we get it, we will find resources within the IAF by becoming more efficient and changing our internal priorities. Nevertheless, we will still have to ask the General Staff to back an efficiency program with resources from outside the IAF." According to Bodinger, the almost yearly budget cutbacks have eroded all the reserves earmarked for development and have required new planning every year. Referring to the raids on terrorist targets in Lebanon, the IAF chief said: "Every raid on terrorist targets makes a small contribution toward the combat experience gained by every pilot. That is why we try to distribute the raids equally among all the squadrons, so that young pilots may gain experience. The raids are not that simple; our jets attract antiaircraft fire in almost all of them."

'General Closure' on Territories During Elections

TA1906101792 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 19 Jun 92 p A1

[By military correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpt] The defense establishment yesterday decided to impose a general closure on the territories the day of the Israeli elections, from the morning of 23 June to early morning of 24 June. The decision was backed by all the participants in the session, who also decided to further ease the restrictions imposed on Gaza Strip residents as part of the closure imposed 24 days ago.

The closure on the al-Nusayrat refugee camp will be lifted the day after the elections, 30 days after the murder of Helena Rapp in Bat Yam, and local residents will be

allowed to leave for work in Israel. As may be recalled, Helena Rapp was murdered by an inhabitant of this refugee camp. Inhabitants of al-Nusayrat will have to meet the criteria applied to all other workers from the Gaza Strip. Two petitions concerning the closure of al-Nusayrat were submitted to the High Court of Justice in recent days.

The defense establishment also decided to allow hundreds of Gaza Strip taxi drivers to cross into Israel. As of next week, they will be allowed to drive workers over the age of 25 to work in Israel.

Security sources told HA'ARETZ last night that all restrictions on the Gaza Strip have now been lifted and, as of 24 June, thousands will be allowed to report to work in Israel, the only restriction being that they must be over 25. The sources added that they expect restrictions to be eased further after the elections. It is estimated that some 50,000 Gazans will now report to work in Israel, similar to the figure prior to the closure. [passage omitted]

Poll Gives Labor 1-Seat Edge Over Likud

TA1806113692 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 18 Jun 92 p 1

[Text] The most recent poll conducted by the Modi'in Ezrahi Institute for HADASHOT shows that the gap between Likud and Labor has almost completely closed, while Tzomet and Meretz have garnered more support. The breakdown of Knesset seats between the left- and right-wing blocs is as follows: The left wing has 50 seats, while the right wing has 55. The question posed to the poll's respondents was: Who would you vote for if the elections were held today?

	mid-May	late May	10 June	15 June
Likud	33	35	37	37
Labor	43	42	42	38
Moledet	3	5	4	4
Tzomet	6	4	5	6
Tehiya	3	3	4	3
Meretz	9	9	10	12
Yahadut Hatora	7	6	5	6
SHAS	5	4	4	5
NRP	4	5	5	5
HADASH + Darawishah	6	6	4	4

[Key to abbreviations in table: SHAS—Torah Observing Sephardim; NRP—National Religious Party; HADASH—Democratic Front for Peace and Equality]

Shamir Rejects Request To Set Up New Settlements

TA1706095992 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 17 Jun 92 p A4

[Report by Nadav Shragay]

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir conferred with the heads of the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip a few days ago and rejected their request to permit settlers to move into four settlements in the territories prior to the elections.

The settlers want to civilianize the presettlements of Ginat (north of Janin), Elisha' (south of the Hebron hills), and Gva'ot (in the 'Etzyon bloc), and to receive final approval for the establishment of the settlement of Rehelim, which was set up without permission after the murder of Rahel Druck and Yitzhaq Rofe several months ago.

Present at the meeting with the prime minister were Uri Ari'el, secretary general of the settlers' council; Amana Secretary General Ze'ev Haver; and Tzvi Handel, head of the Hof 'Aza regional council.

The prime minister told the delegation that now is the wrong time to introduce new settlements. The delegation claimed, however, that now, on the eve of the elections in the United States and Israel, sensitivity to the establishment of new settlements is relatively low, and current action will be accepted with understanding in Israel and abroad.

Uri Ari'el said after the meeting that he thinks the four settlements should have been set up five years ago. "I believe there is much misunderstanding about the importance of the dispersal of settlements on the ground.

"It is not being given the significance it deserves. Outside political pressures are taken into consideration too much. We have been told that if we do not receive loan guarantees there will be a tragedy here, that the country will not survive. However, I see the country continuing to exist, and not too badly."

An editorial in the upcoming edition of NEQUDA, the settlers' magazine, says on this issue: "According to clear-cut understandings reached with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, several settlements are due to be inaugurated."

So that the meaning of "understandings" is not underestimated, the editorial stresses: "We point out that, in reference to settlements such as Ginat, Rehelim, Gva'ot, Elisha', etc., even precise dates were agreed upon, but the agreements—to my regret but not to my surprise—were not honored."

"I am sorry," NEQUDA writes, "that the prime minister has once again failed by making commitments and not honoring them, and it is even more regrettable that he did not have the strength to exploit the relatively good timing and order the establishment of the settlements.

"It would have conformed with the Likud platform, would have been accepted with understanding—if not agreement—by the left in Israel and the U.S. Administration, and would have strengthened settlement support in advance of the political test Shamir is facing. For added value, it would also have been useful to the Likud in the elections."

In response, Herzl Makov, director of the prime minister's bureau, said that there were no understandings with the settlers on precise dates for taking over presettlements and no agreements with them.

"The information is incorrect. The prime minister's position is that at present Jewish settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip should be strengthened and more people should go and live in the existing settlements and not set up new ones."

New Regulations Slow Construction

TA1706122292 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] The attorney general has issued new regulations limiting the right to speed up building procedures in force since the start of the big immigration wave. Yosef Harish issued the new regulations in response to two petitions to the High Court of Justice regarding plans to build apartments at the City of David [an area now inhabited mainly by Palestinians] in Jerusalem. The High Court will take up the issue today. Until now municipal and state housing committees have been authorized to expedite construction plans where more than 200 units are involved. The Housing Ministry invoked these procedures in connection with the controversial City of David Plan. The attorney general, in his response to the court, said that, since there had been a slowing down in the rate of immigration, the normal considerations should be given to questions of landscaping, archaeology, and infrastructure where these are affected by planning.

IDF Again Evacuates Settlers

TA1806204992 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1930 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] Some 30 settlers arrived tonight at the military presettlement at Ginat near Janin and set up a tent. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] declared the site a closed military site and evacuated the settlers.

New Palestinian Society Holds First Meeting

TA1806174092 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] Radwan Abu-'Ayyash has launched the activities of the new political organization he set up in the territories. The organization held its first meeting in Nabulus this morning. The assessment in the territories is that the new organization will compete with Sari Nusaybah's political committees. Our correspondent in the territories Udi Segal reports:

Leading members of the new political organization in the territories, the Palestinian Social Solidarity Society, headed by Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, held their first meeting in Nabulus today. Although pamphlets describe it as a socioeconomic body, its leaders overtly declared that it is a full-fledged political entity. The society has a 188-member board of trustees, most of whom are identified with Fatah. Some of them are prominent figures in the territories, such as: Bassam al-Sa'ih, son of the chairman of the Palestine National Council; Attorney 'Ali al-Ghazlan; Adib al-Khatib from al-Najah University; and Shaykh Akram Masabhi.

Some 122 branches have been founded in the territories, including the Gaza Strip. Some people in East Jerusalem said they expected a political power struggle to erupt between the new organization and the political committees of Sari Nusaybah, Faysal al-Husayni's aide. Associates of Abu-'Ayyash said they have no intention of provoking a confrontation and offhandedly pointed out that they would have no adversary since Nusaybah's political committees have not been active in the field.

In view of his run-ins and disagreements with Faysal al-Husayni, Radwan Abu-'Ayyash has kept a low profile since the beginning of the peace process and has been touring the area to lobby for the new organization.

The society will hold its first public meeting tomorrow and people in the territories are eager to see where this will lead.

Palestinian Delegates Arrive, Meet With 'Arafat

JN1806183492 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, met with some members of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks at the guest palace this evening.

Our reporter for political affairs, Kassab Samawi, has more details:

[Begin recording] [Samawi] The meeting which began around 1900 today at the guest palace in Amman was attended by His Eminence Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, speaker of the Palestine National Council; several members of the PLO Executive Committee; and some Palestinian leaders in Amman, in addition to Yasir 'Arafat.

['Arafat] You know that there is a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation, which has been approved by his majesty and myself since the Madrid conference. It is true, as you know, that the delegation was split into two independent delegations, but the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, the Jordanian delegation, and the Palestinian delegation have my full support and backing and the full support and backing of the Palestinian people. In fact, they have been supported by the Arab nation. Hence, the quadripartite meeting which was held recently in Amman to gather negotiators to the bilateral talks, which was made up of the four delegations to the bilateral talks. Before Madrid, as you remember, there was another meeting, the seven-member meeting which comprised the four parties participating in the bilaterals, in addition to Egypt, a representative of the Gulf summit, and a representative of the Maghreb summit, as representatives of the Arab nation. If this proves anything, it is that the Arab nation in its entirety supports those negotiators in this difficult political struggle, because we are struggling at the political negotiations with a stubborn opponent. [end recording]

The Palestinian delegation to the peace talks arrived in Amman this afternoon. The delegation, which is led by Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, will participate in the Palestinian meetings to assess the peace march and discuss the latest developments in the Palestine question.

Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi spoke to our reporter for political affairs, Kassab Samawi, about the mission of the delegation in Amman.

[Begin recording] ['Ashrawi] It is to assess the march so far and the negotiations and what has been achieved and to draw up a future strategy, in addition to holding Palestinian-Jordanian coordination at the highest levels.

[Samawi] Press reports said today that you are going to attend a meeting with the Palestinian leadership to draw up a comprehensive plan for political legislative elections in the occupied territories. What is your comment?

['Ashrawi] Of course, the issue of elections has been previously raised. It is at the heart of the Palestinian proposals for the interim phase, as this is related to comprehensive national elections with political dimensions to assume power. It will definitely be on the agenda. The Palestinian meetings between the delegation and the Palestinians from outside the territories and the Palestinian leadership are comprehensive.

[Samawi] Dr. Hanan, what are your expectations for Israeli elections, their results, and impact on the peace process?

['Ashrawi] The very fact of holding Israeli elections will free the march of Israeli electoral considerations and election propaganda and their not engaging in negotiations. However, the results will not be that easy or that clear. It is a very complex process, and I think there will be no clear majority for any party. But the Israelis will try to reach a national unity, coalition and broad-based government. And this government could either have the authority to make serious, crucial decisions or it could be a self- effacing government with regard to the contradictions within it. This government could also be a government that acts on the basis of the lowest common denominator. However, we will take all these issues into considerations. I have to explain here that Israeli elections constitute only one of the elements and components of the political march, and should not be given more attention than they really deserve.

[Samawi] How do you explain this international silence on what is happening in the occupied territories?

['Ashrawi] This is because there is international fear of affecting the Israeli elections. This is indeed what has happened. Israel has managed to frighten the world and to prevent intervention and to prevent any developments to deter Israel internationally, since it deems any intervention as interference in Israeli domestic political issues or in the issue of elections. That is why there is an international desire not to intervene either in word or in deed. But after the elections we expect a firmer, clearer position toward Israel. [end recording]

Further 'Ashrawi Remarks on Visit

JN1806200892 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] Palestinian peace negotiators arrived in Amman for talks with Jordanian and Palestinian officials on the Arab-Israeli peace process. Chief negotiator Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, Faysal al-Husayni, and Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi are among the 20-member delegation.

Spokeswoman Hanan 'Ashrawi told the News at Ten that the visit includes coordination talks with Jordanian officials and an evaluation of the seven months peace process.

[Begin recording] ['Ashrawi] Well, we are going to assess, evaluate the process so far and we are going to put

alternatives and future strategies and we are going to have intensive coordinating meetings with the Jordanian side at the highest levels.

[Unidentified reporter] Future strategies? What do you mean by that?

['Ashrawi] Well, in view of future developments, we are going to try to plot a course of action that is closely coordinated with the Jordanians for the peace process and for the negotiations and for the future bilateral relations between Jordan and Palestine. [end recording]

Non-Islamic, 'Crusader' Forces Seen Behind ICO

JN1706115292 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 17 Jun 92 pp 1, 14

[Editorial: "Why Get Involved in War Between Serbia, Bosnia?"]

[Text] Observers can only wonder about the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] states' enthusiasm to intervene militarily in the ongoing war in Bosnia-Hercegovina.

This Turkish-led Islamic "move" to save the Muslims of Bosnia-Hercegovina from the Serb campaign of aggression, and, if necessary the mobilization of the Islamic armies and participation in a war whose objectives, as well as the intentions of both sides' fighters, are obscure, cannot be a "move" for the sake of God Almighty or in the interest of Islam and Muslims. Otherwise, why did the ICO states remain silent over the 30-state aggression on Iraq, in which most of them actually participated from the trench of the new crusaders? And, why did they not rush to lift the unjust siege imposed on the Muslim people of Iraq?

Why do they remain silent over the siege imposed on the Muslims in the occupied Gaza Strip and watch the annihilation campaign launched by Israel against the Muslims there?

Why do not the Islamic Conference states rush to repel the continuous Israeli attacks against the Muslims of southern Lebanon?

Why do not these Islamic states take action to save holy Jerusalem, the al-Aqsa Mosque, and the blessed Dome of the Rock from the filth of the racist Israeli occupation?

We are not against Islamic solidarity with the Muslims of Bosnia- Hercegovina. However, we are against running behind the states which claim to be Islamic, yet run after their own selfish and narrow interests. We know very well that the states that are taking part in the Istanbul conference themselves canceled the duty of "jihad" at the Dakar conference. Why then are they now calling for the mobilization of armies and involving them in Bosnia-Hercegovina, which has not yet declared its Islam?

We believe that behind this Islamic move there are non-Islamic and even crusader forces and states which refuse to adopt honest stands, and which persuaded the UN Security Council to issue resolutions to stop the Serb aggression against Bosnia-Hercegovina as they did against Iraq and Libya.

There is something suspicious and dubious behind this new Islamic move and we call on the Arabs to be alert to it.

Suspension of U.S. Financial Aid to Jordan Denied

JN1806072792 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 18-19 Jun 92 pp 1,5

[Report by JORDAN TIMES staff reporter P.V. Vivekanand: "No Freeze in U.S. Aid to Jordan, But Pressure is On Over Iraq Sanctions"]

[Text] Amman—An American spokesman Wednesday dismissed as untrue reports that the Bush administration had suspended the disbursement of financial assistance to Jordan.

"Our policy remains unchanged as it was a month ago and there is no suspension of American financial aid to Jordan," said the spokesman, from the U.S. embassy in Amman.

The spokesman was answering a question on unconfirmed reports over the weekend which said President George Bush had issued an executive order freezing all aid to Jordan as a sign of Washington's displeasure with "the continued large-scale smuggling of goods across the border to Iraq."

Although American financial assistance to Jordan—which took a downward slide since 1980—has not been a crucial factor in the Kingdom's economy, it was always seen as highly symbolic of the ups and downs in the political links between Washington and Amman.

American aid to Jordan for calender year 1991 was $31 million, and $65 million has been budgeted for 1992. In addition, Washington has given $20 million in soft-term loans to finance a Jordanian purchase of American wheat and another $12 million in feedgrains to the Kingdom.

Amman and Washington recently signed an agreement rescheduling $127 million of Jordanian debts owed to the U.S.

The embassy spokesman declined comment on earlier reports that that U.S. had "cancelled" joint military exercises with Jordan saying that there was no official statement from Washington on the issue.

But another American source confirmed that the exercises were "postponed rather than cancelled." The source did not offer any explanation to the American move, but reports in the American press quoting informed official sources said it was definitely aimed at expressing the Bush administration's anger over what it sees as laxity on the part of Jordan in enforcing the international sanctions against Iraq.

Public statements by administration officials acknowldge that Jordanian officials are doing their best to check smuggling into Iraq, but what is implied or suggested in these statements is that the Kingdom could and should do more to tighten its borders.

A series of reports appeared in the U.S. media in the past four weeks, some citing unidentified officials and other quoting what were described as official intelligence reports, all implying that perceived Jordanian laxity in adhering to the sanctions was instrumental in the continued survival of the government of President Saddam Husayn in Baghdad.

The reports were coupled with what was described as a revival of a rather old proposal to station United Nations inspectors in Jordanian territory to monitor cargo traffic into and from the Kingdom in return for the withdrawal of the American-led naval fleet now stationed in the Red Sea to enforce the sanctions against Iraq.

The strict enforcement of the sanctions by the warships has resulted in heavy losses and delays for Jordanian importers. On many occasions, Jordan-bound cargo was intercepted and denied entry to al-'Aqabah, to the extent that many importer and shipping agents complain that Jordan was continuing to be punished for not joining the anti-Iraq coalition.

Many importers also say that the problems created by the sanctions enforcers at the mouth of the Gulf of Aqaba appeared to be an indirect form of pressure on Jordan to accept the U.N. inspectors on its soil.

An American spokesman Tuesday confirmed that the proposal remained valid.

"There is a plan under consideration by the members of the anti-Iraq coalition who are performing the maritime intercept operation...that would allow the U.N. monitors to inspect cargo to the port of al-'Aqabah and other locations on Jordanian soil," U.S. Defence Department spokesman Pete Willaims told reporters.

According to Mr. Williams, the question of stationing U.N. observers in Jordan "is a Jordanian decision that has to be worked out with the United Nations."

What appeared to have been left unsaid by the spokesman as well as in a recent report in the Washington Post was the fact that the proposal, billed as al-'Aqabah Plus," was made as far back as mid-1991 and Jordan rejected it saying it violated the Kingdom's sovereignty.

"The Americans tried to force it down the throat of (then Prime Minister Tahir) al-Masri and were unsuccessful," said a former official. "First of all any stationing of foreign inspectors in Jordan will indeed violate the sovereignty of the country, but beyond that it will also give additional ammunition to the opposition—mainly the Islamists—to smear the government," added the official, who preferred anonymity.

In its report, the Washinton post quoted Finance Minister Basil Jardanah as saying: "I, as minister of finance and customs, have no problem with the al-'Aqabah Plus plan. Politically, however, I object to it. The opposition may use it to discredit the government."

Other Jordanian officials noted that shortly after the sanctions were imposed on Iraq in August 1990, the government of Mudar Badran—Mr. al-Masri's predecessor—came under fierce criticism from the opposition in Parliament and had to adopt a firm position to force the withdrawal of certain "unofficial inspectors" from the border area.

U.S. Assistant Defence Secretary James Liley said earlier this month that contraband goods were appearing in Iraq but that Jordanian officials were trying hard to curb smuggling across the border and were finding the job very difficult. However, the implication in the statement, as seen in Amman, was that Jordan could do a lot more in enforcing the sanctions and one way to do so was to accept the al-'Aqabah Plus proposal.

There are those in Jordan who think that if indeed the stationing of U.N. inspectors is inevitable then why not deploy them on the Iraqi side of the border.

"They [the anti-Iraq coalition) can get special (U.N.) resolutions to deploy inspectors in Iraqi territory," said an official. In fact, inspections along the Iraqi side of the border might be even more effective."

There are yet others who argue that it is unfair to single out Jordan for the "seepage" of contraband goods into Iraq and say that political considerations have prompted the American-led coalition to steer clear of levelling accusing fingers at three other neighbours of Iraq—Turkey, Iran and Syria.

If anything, Jordanian businessmen say, a considerable amount of Iraqi products such a dates, sulphur and urea has been flowing through Syria, Turkey and Iran.

"The Americans have been accusing us [Jordanian businessmen] of exporting Iraqi products through al-'Aqabah," said one businessman. "Granted there might have been some illegal shipments of disguised Iraqi products which were intercepted and returned to al-'Aqabah, but very little attention appears to be given to the origin of some of the shipments from Syrian, Turkish, Lebanese and Iranian ports."

Another wild card is Saudi Arabia. While it has not been proven beyond reasonable doubt that Saudis—unlikely as they are to be involved in helping Iraq—are smuggling goods across the border to Iraq, there are market indications that Iraqi products, particularly dates, were exported clandestinely through Saudi Arabia although to a limited extent, sources say.

Dubai is believed to be the centre of operations for the "export" of Iraqi products smuggled through the Gulf countries. Documents are forged and the products

become Tunisian, Greek, Yemeni, Iranian, Libyan or even Saudi Arabian while on their way to their ultimate destinations.

Another school of thought in Jordan believes that the Kingdom has been singled out for criticism and accusations in a bid to deflect attention from the anti-Iraq coalition's failure to topple the government of President Saddam, who has become a painful thorn on the side of the administration in an election year.

"They see the regime in Baghdad very much in power and still going strong," said one seasoned analyst. "Obviously they have to blame someone for their failure to topple the regime, and obviously, Jordan is the most likely candidate to be the fall guy."

Paper—Bush 'Appeases' Israel To Win New Term

JN1806093992 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 18 Jun 92 p 1

[Editorial: "President Bush Appeases Israel"]

[Text] There is no longer any doubt that the lenient U.S. stance toward the intransigence of the Shamir government has been the reason for its defiance of the international community, disregard for the peace initiative, and rejection of international legitimacy resolutions.

It is obvious that President Bush has diminished the U.S. role in the peace negotiations to please Israel and the Zionist organizations in the United States.

The U.S. president, whose popularity has declined due to the failure of his domestic policy and his inability to tackle his country's economic difficulties, has become aware of the dire need for the Jewish vote in the upcoming presidential elections.

President Bush, therefore, expressed readiness to improve U.S.-Israeli relations after the Israeli elections. He also expressed readiness to reevaluate the memorandum of understanding with the Shamir government, and to reconsider the $10 billion U.S. loan guarantees to Israel that are to be used for building more Jewish settlements for immigrants from the eastern camp.

In an effort to win the upcoming presidential elections, President Bush also seeks to conclude deals with Israel and the Zionist organizations in his country.

Whether the peace process fails or is completely aborted is no longer of interest to President Bush.

Hence, we can understand the reasons for this U.S. silence or connivance over Israel's recurring attacks on southern Lebanon, and explosion of the region's security.

We can also understand the U.S. connivance over the Israeli suppression and terrorism in the occupied territories, and the unjust siege on the Gaza Strip and the starving of its people and children.

The peace process has reached a dead end as a result of the leniency toward the intransigent Israeli position. This leniency encouraged the Shamir government to escalate its hostile and provocative actions against the Arab states bordering Israel in order to make them lose hope in the possibility of achieving just, lasting, and comprehensive peace in the region, and to withdraw from the peace negotiations.

Thus, the Bush initiative would be completely thwarted. Despite this, President Bush continues to beg for Jewish votes in order to win another presidential term, even if this is at the expense of people's causes and world security, peace, and stability.

Youth Fires Kalashnikov in Amman; 3 Hurt

JN1706201392 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] On the local scene, an official at the Public Security Department said a 17-year-old youth called Khaldun Hasan Talafihah fired shots in the air from a Kalashnikov assault rifle at the second circle in Jabal Amman this afternoon.

He said passers-by tried to snatch the gun several times but he threatened to kill himself. They managed later to grab the gun and seize the man. Three people were injured and security men were investigating the incident.

U.S. 'Duty' To Press UN on Israeli Raids Seen

NC1806073992 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni said after a meeting with President Ilyas al-Hirawi that the world is doing nothing about Israel's almost daily aggressions. He believes it is America's duty to force the United Nations to shoulder its responsibilities, based on a single standard, and implement international resolutions.

Al-Husayni leaves for an official visit to Cairo today. He visited the presidential headquarters to meet with al-Hirawi on the eve of his departure.

Hizballah Condemns Israeli Raid on Arnun

NC1806080092 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] A responsible Hizballah source stated the following about the new Israeli aggression that targeted the township of Arnun, its mosque, and some people's homes:

Again, the Zionist occupation is committing another thoughtless act in an eternal series of idiotic actions against the resisting south and its steadfast villages. The Zionists extended their criminal and sinful arm to plunder Arnun in the south, where the occupation planted the seeds of its latent grudge against the holy shrines and sanctified places. The Zionist aggression struck Arnun's mosque, occupation soldiers detonating it before razing it to the ground. Their terrorism extended to blowing up people's homes.

Clearly, the occupying Zionists were not satisfied with their crimes practiced in Lebanon and against its people, such as killing peaceable citizens, destroying the popular and populated, and continuing daily shelling. Daily, the occupiers enlarge their criminal and aggressive circle, committing the worst kinds of crimes without caring about laws and human and international norms.

The official Hizballah source adds: No one has the guts to touch the holy places, because they are symbols of doctrines and religions and because of the holiness of their meaning to those who believe in them. By destroying mosques and other places of worship, the Zionists are revealing their grudge and hatred for humanity and its beliefs. Their actions reveal a cunning and longstanding hostility to religions and anything symbolizing their authenticity.

The source said those who desecrated the al-Aqsa Mosque and the holy places around it and demolished mosques in Muslim villages will not hesitate to destroy and demolish anything they see as a link between the divine religions and their people.

He announced: After this heinous crime, we ask all humanitarian organizations and religious bodies to take a firm stand against the sacrilege committed by the Zionists. The source adds: We tell the usurping occupiers: All your thoughtless acts will only bring you shame and permanent condemnation. We will continue to resist you until our land is liberated so that we are not daily distressed by the destruction of a holy Muslim center.

Israelis Continue Operations in South

Israelis Clash With UN Forces

NC1806115792 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] The Israeli occupation forces continue to reinforce their positions in the occupied south. Last night, the enemy reportedly brought three Merkava tanks, two armored personnel carriers, and many troops to 'Ayn Qinya Hill, overlooking the liberated areas in the eastern sector. Three enemy bulldozers widened the road between Tall al-Nahhas and Bab al-Tinah, west of al-Khiyam.

Also last night, an Israeli armored force reportedly tried to force its way into the al-'Urqub area but was stopped by the UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL]. A clash ensued near the Suq al-Khan triangle, after which the enemy force retreated. UNIFIL then reinforced its positions in Suq al-Khan.

At noon, enemy aircraft intensified their reconnaissance flights over the south, Beirut, and the mountains. They broke the sound barrier over Beirut at 1130, and continued to fly over Lebanon for more than 30 minutes.

'Sweep' Iqlim al-Tuffah

NC1806130192 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Excerpts] According to our correspondent, Israeli forces conducted a sweep in Iqlim al-Tuffah and fired several shells at the Jabal Safi and 'Ayn Bu Siwar ridges. [passage omitted]

Israeli forces also forced four families living in Hula out of their homes and ordered them to leave the border security strip.

Attempt To Advance Toward Kafr Rumman

NC1806163892 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] A significant development occurred in the south today when Israeli occupation forces attempted to advance toward the village of Kafr Rumman near al-Nabatiyah. Reports indicate that Israeli forces shelled al-Nabatiyah at 1730 today and that Israeli occupation forces and the Lebanese resistance were involved in fierce clashes near Kafr Rumman earlier in the day. An Amal Movement source says that the clashes began when four Israeli troops carriers advanced toward the village. The source said that Amal fighters and local inhabitants confronted the Israelis.

Citing security sources, REUTER says that a roadside bomb exploded as an Israeli convoy was passing on a road leading to Kafr Rumman. The Israelis responded by shelling Kafr Rumman, Iqlim al- Tuffah ridges and Jabal Safi with 120-mm artillery from their positions in Zifta. REUTER adds that three people were injured as a result of the shelling. The enemy also shelled the outskirts of Zawter from its positions in 'Alman and al-Shumariyah.

A short while ago, the resistance began answering the enemy's shelling by firing 81-mm mortar shells at their positions.

SLA Troops Advance

NC1806181492 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] REUTER quoted security sources as saying that two Israeli soldiers were injured, one seriously, by a road bomb. An Islamic Resistance spokesman claimed responsibility for the operation and added that resistance fighters destroyed two Merkava tanks during an ambush on an Israeli force of 30 troops and four tanks.

An Israeli reconnaissance plane and helicopter overflew the hills overlooking Kafr Rumman.

Our correspondent in the south reports that the approaches to Kafr Rumman and the Jabal Safi and al-Luwayzah hills were shelled with 120-mm guns from positions in Zifta, 'Ali al-Tahir hills, and al-Suwayda' at about 1500. The shelling, which caused several fires in Kafr Rumman, subsequently abated and stopped entirely after 1600.

The Amal Movement bureau telephoned our radio station this afternoon and reported that an Israeli force of five tanks and 50 troops attempted to advance on Kafr Rumman before being checked by Amal fighters in a one-hour battle. Amal said that during the attempted advance, the Israeli forces shelled al-Nabatiyah and nearby areas and added that when Amal artillery fired two shells at the 'Alman-al-Shumariyah positions, the Israelis responded with a barrage against Frun village. Two villagers, Ahmad al-Haj and Husayn Rida Makki, were wounded.

AFP cited Lebanese police sources in Sidon as saying that a group of resistance fighters clashed with a South Lebanese Army [SLA] unit in the central sector this afternoon. The sources added that approximately 50 SLA troops, backed by four armored vehicles, advanced 500 meters in the direction of Kafr Rumman. Half an hour earlier, the resistance had shelled an SLA position near the 'Alman- al-Shumariyah area inside the security border strip. Israeli artillery directed a ferocious artillery barrage against al- Nabatiyah. About 20 150-mm and 120-mm shells fell on the town in half an hour.

Israeli Helicopters Attack Town

NC1806193992 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1904 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] The NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondent filed this report on up-to-the-minute developments in the south: A short time ago, two Israeli helicopters attacked al-Siddiqin in the central sector and destroyed a house. That is all the information we have at this

[Paris AFP in English at 1912 GMT on 18 June carries a Tyre-datelined report about the incident, which adds the following: "Two Israeli helicopters attacked a position controlled by pro-Iranian fundamentalist militants in southern Lebanon Thursday night, destroying two homes and damaging others, Lebanese police said. They said the raid against the Hizballah movement targeted the village of al-Siddiqin at 9.30 p.m. (1830 GMT). The helicopters fired three missiles in the attack, according to police, who had no immediate information about casualties."]

Israelis Fly Over Iqlim al-Tuffah

NC1906055492 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 19 Jun 92

[Text] Our correspondent in al-Nabatiyah reports that shortly after midnight last night, a number of shells fell in Kafr Rumman, which was accompanied by heavy bursts of machine-gun fire.

An Israeli MK reconnaissance aircraft was flying over al-Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah regions in the south since 0600 today.

SLA Post Attacked

NC1906084892 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 19 Jun 92

[Text] A South Lebanese Army [SLA] post on 'Alman-Al- Shumariyah Hill in the central sector was attacked this morning. There were no casualties. SLA sources said a clash ensued, in which artillery and tanks were used to bombard the areas close to the scene of the attack.

Security sources indicated that a number of artillery shells fell on the villages of 'Ayn Bu Siwar and Jba' at 0300 today.

Hizballah Said Holding Canadian Citizen Hostage

NC1806081492 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] It appears that the release of the two Germans did not end the issue of Western hostages in Lebanon. The chairwoman of a committee formed in Montreal to demand the release of Henriette Haddad says that Haddad was kidnapped in Beirut in 1985 and is still being held, perhaps by Hizballah. The Canadian official added that she received assurances from the Iranian Embassy in Paris that Haddad might be released soon. She stated that Haddad is a Lebanese with Canadian

citizenship. A senior official at the Iranian Embassy in Paris informed Haddad's family that she is still alive; that Hizballah members are holding her; and that they are prepared to release her on humanitarian grounds. The Iranian official said that she received treatment in Iran and was returned to Lebanon.

Army Releases Three Fatah 'Terrorists'

NC1906082792 (Clandestine) Voice of the South in Arabic to Lebanon 0730 GMT 19 Jun 92

[Text] Our correspondent in Sidon reports that the three terrorists—members of 'Arafat's Fatah who participated in a terrorist attempt in al-Naqurah on the night of 12-13 September 1991 and who at that time were handed over by the UN Interim Force in Lebanon to the Lebanese Army—were recently released and left Lebanon for abroad.

Correction to Israeli 'Savagery, Cowardice'

WA1806102992

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Lebanon Experiencing Israeli 'Savagery, Cowardice,'" published in the 16 June Near East and South Asia DAILY REPORT, page 21: Column one, fourth paragraph, first sentence, make read: ...said the Arabs are always satisfied with America's messages and its talk about UN Security.... (providing retranslation, rewording)

Afghanistan

Jehad Council's Mojaddedi Holds News Conference

LD1806215192 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1630 GMT 18 Jun 92

[News conference held by Jehad Council Chairman Sebghatollah Mojaddedi in Gol Khana Palace, Kabul, on 16 June—recorded]

[Text] Dear audience. Today there will be a session of the Jehad Council of dear Afghanistan. During the period of more than one-and-a-half months since the formation of the council, it has carried out a series of duties. One group from our Islamic formations, Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami, has so far not participated in this Council. Some time before 'Id al-Adha, we reached an agreement and our brothers introduced their members to the Jehad Council. One factor which delayed the issue was of course a number of hands which were working against having full and complete unity take place. The clashes which took place among Ettehadi Eslami of Ostad Sayyaf, and Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami also delayed the issue a little, and then it was 'Id Al-Ahda. Therefore, today, which is the day that a session of the Jehad Council is being held, we succeeded. I was introduced to the members of the Jehad Council and now I want to mention their names to you.

The Jehad Council fully agreed with Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami that in addition to the members they will introduce—they have introduced eight members of the Jehad Council—the Jehad Council has given them three ministries. One of these ministries is the Ministry of National Security. The Ministry of National Security, which was called previously the Ministry of State Security, will start functioning as the Ministry of National Security.

Also in the Leadership Council, which is the council of leadership, each formation will have a member. Also, brothers of Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami will introduce a number to the council too.

Also the Shura-e Etahadi Eslami, which has been formed in the northern regions and is based in Mazar-e Sharif, representing five provinces from the north of the country for some time, played a considerable role in overthrowing Najib's regime. They too also had a number of rightful demands that we give them a share or a part in this council. Five seats have been allocated to them in order to introduce their members to this Council. We expected them to arrive today by aircraft. They have not yet come. They might come later.

A ministry has also been given to the Northern Unity, and they also should introduce their minister. I personally have this wish, and a number of the esteemed members of the Jehad Council too have this view, that we should invite three, four or five people, or whatever number is agreed upon, from each province to participate in the Jehad Council, and they should be introduced as its members. No decision has been made so far, but discussions are to be held on this issue so that the council can have direct contacts with all the provinces of Afghanistan.

Now I introduce the members of Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami who are members of the Jehad Council. Before I mention their names, I want to say that they are very important, clear-sighted, mojahed and wise people:

Esteemed Mohammad Karim Khalili; Esteemed Seyyed Rahmatollah Mortazavi; Esteemed 'Abdol Haq Khan Shafaq; Esteemed 'Abdol Hoseyn Khan Maqsudi; Esteemed Seyyed Mohammad Salim Mo'allemzadah; Esteemed Seyyed Mohammad Hoseyn Mohaqqeqzadah; Esteemed Yusof Zaki; and Esteemed Qorban 'Ali Khan Aspani.

I welcome once again the brothers from Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami and consider their participation in the Jehad Council will further the cause for progress in the affairs of our Afghanistan. I am sure that the participation of our brothers in the Jehad Council, in our Islamic government and in the state, will play a very important role in the realization of the aspiration of the Muslim nation of Afghanistan to establish security and peace in our country. Thanks to God, so far there is no disagreement between us and a full sense of cooperation and understanding exists among us. God willing this understanding among the members of the jehad Council will contribute to the progress of our domestic affairs. We hope that many shortages which are seen in our country will be overcome with the attention of our brothers.

[Mohammad Karim Khalili] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. We too are very happy, and thank the domestic and foreign journalists for their participation. After 'Id al-Adha, this is the first session of the Jehad Council in which the representatives of Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami took part. Previously we too cooperated and coordinated our efforts with the Islamic State. When Kabul city was captured by the Mojahedin and the remnants of the old regime were cleared, we defended Kabul city alongside our Mojahed brothers and contributed toward ensuring security in Kabul city and the defense of the Islamic State.

However, we had views and opinions, and there were minor differences between our views and those of the authorities of the Islamic State. But, thanks to God, as a result of efforts by both sides and the serious efforts and deep attention paid by esteemed Hazrat Saheb [Mojaddedi], the issues were solved. We reached an understanding over the issues in the Jehad Council, in the cabinet and in the Leadership Council. Our point of view is the same now. We hope that from now on, all the Jehad forces and all the officials of the Islamic parties will take more serious steps, with full unity, in connection with the future difficulties both toward ensuring security and consolidating security in Kabul city, and toward resolving problems in other cities and provinces of the country. This is our wish and we hope to achieve our wish.

Once again, on behalf of Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami I want to express thanks for your participation and for the

efforts made, and for the attention paid by Hazrat Shaheb to remove the differences of opinion. [end Khalili recording]

[Mojaddedi] I want to thank all the journalists for their participation, and I want to thank the political representatives of the friendly countries and the representative of the United Nations who have taken part in this session.[end Mojaddedi

[AFP correspondent asks question in English with superimposed Dari translation] The AFP correspondent asks how many members the Council has now. In response, Esteemed Mojaddedi states that there are five members from each of the seven formations. Currently out of the seven or eight formations of the Hezb-e Wahdat, eight seats have been allocated in the Jehad council to the Hezb-e Wahdat and five seats have been allocated to the Islamic council Unity of the North. The BBC correspondent then asks: Bey the Northern Council Unity do you mean the National Islamic Movement of the North? In answer, Esteemed Mojaddedi states: Yes. We mean the same council which has been formed under the Leadership of 'Abdolrashid Dostam.

[Unidentified journalist, in Persian] The members of the Council who are to be introduced by the National Movement of (?the North), who have not yet arrived—could you please mention their names? If the Ministry of National Security is going to be held by the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami, who is going to be its minister and which are the other two ministries?

[Mojaddedi] The minister has not yet been introduced to us. If they introduce a minister, his name will be published in the papers. Concering the brothers from the northern regions, we have just heard from them that they will come tomorrow at 1400.

[Same journalist] Could you specify their names?

[Mojaddedi] Their names are not specified. When they come tomorrow they might give their names.

[Same unidentified journalist] Apart from the Ministry of National Security, what are the other two ministries?

[Mojaddedi] From the ministries that remain they can choose whichever they want.

[Voice of interpreter apparently citing Mojaddedi] As far as the prime minister is concerned, we hope not to have a prime minister at all. [as heard]

[Unidentified journalist] Are you close to accepting the proposal to appoint Ostad Farid as prime minister?

[Mojaddedi] In this connection I should say that the two-phased process formally agreed on in Peshawar is continuing. After two months, Esteemed Burhanoddin Rabbani will become the Chairman of the Jehad Council. He began this process earlier. He came before it was his time. He said he will come after two months, but he came after 15 days and started work. Therefore, he, to a point, broke the decision. On the other hand, Mr. Hekmatyar attacked Kabul, attacked the government. Clashes took place among the parties, too. Therefore, the previous decision has been broken. However, my turn has ended. We will ask the people to make a decision.

[Unidentified journalist] Do you expect Ostad Farid to come to Kabul as prime minister within the next few days?

[Mojaddedi] I have said before that I do not want Hezb-e Hekmatyar to participate in this government. This is my decision. He has trampled on human rights, the rights of Afghans. He has killed our people. Many civilians were killed; people's property was stolen, and I think that under such conditions he cannot participate in the government. Of course, the subsequent council will make a decision in this regard. This is my view. Thank you very much and good bye.

AFP Cites Mojaddedi Statements

BK1806123692 Hong Kong AFP in English 1227 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, June 18 (AFP)--Afghan interim President Sebghatollah Mojaddedi has rebuffed critics and defended his decision that a Loya Jergah or grand assembly should decide the future government in afghanistan.

The idea of a Loya Jergah "is supported" by a vast majority of Afghans, said a statement from the Afghan presidency released by its Peshawar-based information office here late Wednesday.

The statement came amid threats by some mojahedin leaders, notably hardline Hezb-e Eslami chief Golboddin Hekmatyar, that Mojaddedi would be dislodged by force if he tried to stay in power beyond his two-month tenure.

In accordance with an April 24 political accord concluded here by mojahedin parties that appointed him caretaker president after the fall of the Soviet-installed Najibollah government, Mojaddedi is supposed to hand over to Jamiat-e Eslami chief Borhanoddin Rabbani by the end of June.

"It is the just and legitimate right of Afghans to decide about their government and leadership," the presidency's statement said.

The statement charged Hekmatyar, Rabbani and Rasul Sayyaf, chief of Ittihad-e Eslami faction, with having violated the agreement.

Rabbani had formed a leadership council before the two-month period, Hekmatyar had "caused" widespread killings by sending his troops into Kabul before the transfer of power and Sayyaf's men "fought" with the Hezb-e Wahdat faction in the capital, the statement said.

All these acts were "crystal clear" violations of the accord, the statement added.

In apparent reference to reported cricisim of the Loya Jergah plan by a former chief of Pakistan military's

Inter-Services Intelligence agency, retired general Gul Hamid, the statement opposed "interference in Afghan internal affairs."

Hamid, known for his close links with mojahedin, has been advocating a share in power to all main Afghan parties in a broadbased government to lead the country to peace and stability.

Pakistan President Ghulam Ishaq Khan reiterated support of the April 24 accord during a meeting with Rabbani and other Afghan leaders in Islamabad this week.

Mojadeddi Replies to President Bush 'Id Greetings

LD1806200192 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] A message of gratitude from Esteemed Sebghatollah Mojadeddi, President of the Jehad Council and embodiment of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, addressed to Mr. George Bush, President of the United States of America in reply to a congratulatory message which arrived in Kabul on the occasion of 'Id al-Adha, has been communicated to Washington, which reads:

Through a message from you, and through fruitful discussions and talks that I and other Afghan authorities held with Mr. Peter Tomsen, we were fully informed about the friendliness and good will of the United States concerning the situation in Afghanistan, as a whole, and the process of establishing security and maintaining peace and cooperation between all Afghan strata, the return of Afghan refugees to the homeland and the reconstruction of the country.

We attach great importance to the categorical stand of the United States concerning the safeguarding of territorial integrity, respect for Afghanistan's national sovereignty and noninterference by other countries in Afghans' internal affairs, as well as the expressions of readiness for all-round help in the reconstruction of Afghanistan.

Afghanistan will make every effort to establish lasting peace and reconciliation through a political process, and the Islamic order in Afghanistan develops in accordance with the will of the majority of the people. Afghanistan wishes to play its befitting role in international cooperation for solving international problems.

We are not only ready to develop cooperation with the United States, but consider it a fundamental element in our economic construction.

Former Attorney General Under Najibollah Flees

BK1806132892 Hong Kong AFP in English 1230 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] Kabul, June 18 (AFP)—Sherafuddin Sharoff, chief prosecutor of the ousted communist regime in Kabul, who is accused of sending thousands to their deaths, has escaped to India fearing an attempt on his life in the unpoliced city.

Afghan sources said Sharoff, who held the post of attorney general under the Soviet-installed regime of ousted President Najibollah, had left for New Delhi with his wife, son and daughter- in-law but almost no belongings. They said Sharoff and his family held new passports given to them by the new caretaker Islamic government.

The 58-year-old bureaucrat headed the prosecution department of the KGB-style Khad secret police, which gained in importance in the battle against anti-Kabul mojahedin fighters after the Soviet troop withdrawal in 1989.

Highly placed Afghan sources said the Islamic government turned a blind eye as Sharoff fled on a regular Kabul-Delhi commercial flight as it was afraid he could be assassinated if he stayed on.

"The family fled with the permission of the militia," a source said, referring to the tough Uzbek fighters deployed in the chaotic city and its international airport to guard against possible invasion by outside mojahedin groups.

Sharoff had worked as attorney general since 1990 when Najibollah abolished the communist-style revolutionary courts and set up special bodies to handle Khad prisoners. Earlier he had held the job for almost 10 years under a different rank, the sources said.

Sharoff's flight to India follows the brutal murder of Afghanistan's chief justice Karim Shardan by unknown assassins in Kabul on May 3, which had cast doubt on the general amnesty to former regime members declared by the interim government.

The sources said the former attorney general had sought asylum with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in New Delhi, because India as a rule does not offer political asylum.

Thousands of men and women from the Najibollah regime have escaped to Europe, the Central Asian republics or India since the mojahedin takeover triggered chaos in Kabul, where administrative activity has come to a standstill.

Some 70 to 80 leave Kabul daily with the approval of the new government which balks at detaining them, fearing conflict along ethnic and religious lines.

An unknown number of people belonging to the previous regime installed through the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979, have vanished since the resistance took over in late April.

Textbooks on Islamic Principles Donated by Peshawar

LD1906094292 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Excerpts] 'Abdol Qayum, acting education and training minister, toured a primary girls school at Bibi Mahro and 'Abdolhadi Dawi High school. [passage omitted]

A source at the Ministry of Education and Training said that a number of books, learning aids, and stationery have been

given to the Ministry of Education and Training by the education center of the Ministry of Education and Training of Peshawar. These books, which cover from the first class to sixth grade [for 6-12 year old children], have been printed by the education center in Peshawar in line with the principles of the sacred religion of Islam. Today a number of new books were distributed to children in these schools.

Bangladesh

Opposition Parties Boycott Session on Budget

BK1806164692 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] President Abdur Rahman Biswas today authenticated the finance bill and the national budget for 1992-93 for placing before the Jatiya Sangsad [parliament]. The president later witnessed the proceedings of the sangsad. Earlier, the cabinet approved the revised budget for 1991-92 and the national budget for 1992-93 at a special meeting with Prime Minister Khaleda Zia in the chair.

Later, the finance minister introduced the Finance Bill 1992. Our parliamentary representative says as Finance Minister M. Saifur Rahman entered the sangsad chamber with his traditional briefcase containing budget proposals, he was given standing ovation by the MPs. His 2 and ½ hour budget speech was delivered in three parts. Leader of the house Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, ministers, and MPs listened to the budget speech with rapt attention. All opposition members, excepting those of the Jamaat-i-Islami, however, did not join today's inaugural sitting. The house has been adjourned for three days and it will meet again on Monday at 1500.

1992-93 Budget Detailed

BK1806165692 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] The new national budget for 1992-93 was presented in the Jatiya Sangsad [parliament] in Dhaka this afternoon. The new budget shows the revenue surplus of 2,004 crore taka. Estimated revenue receipt for the next fiscal year stands at 10,554 crore taka, while revenue expenditure at 8,550 crore taka. Presenting the new budget in the house, Finance Minister M. Saifur Rahman highlighted its salient features and explained measures to boost the economy.

Highest allocation of 1,592 crore taka has been proposed for the education sector, which is about 19 percent of the total revenue budget. Substantial increase has also been made for the health and family planning sector. Allocation for education sector has been increased by 27 and for health sector 24 percent of the original allocation. The increased amount in these two sectors will be spent on enhancing the facilities in rural health and primary education institutions.

The finance minister also presented the revised budget for the outgoing fiscal year. The 1991-92 original budget included a revenue of 9,100 crore taka, out of which tax revenue was 7,498 crore taka and nontax revenue was 1,602 crore taka. The new tax measures were adopted early this year, remarkable one being value- added tax—VAT. VAT has been helpful in the government's resource mobilization effort. As a result of increased receipt, the revised budget allocation stands at 9,517 crore taka. Substantial gains have been achieved in small-scale savings through the national saving schemes. Net surplus in this area is estimated to be 616 crore taka in the revised budget. Through increasing revenue and savings, an amount of 1,787 crore taka will be available for financing of the Annual Development Program [ADP] from domestic sources as against 1,108 crore taka estimated in the original budget. Estimated revenue expenditure in the original budget was 8,083 crore taka. This has been revised to 7,900 crore taka in the revised budget. Originally, it was estimated that domestic resources for financing of the ADP by 1991-92 would be around 14 percent. Now, domestic contribution in the revised ADP has been estimated at 25 percent. While sustaining this effort of self- reliance, domestic resource will be more than 27 percent in the ADP for next fiscal year. The original size of the ADP for the current fiscal year was 7,500 crore taka. Due to (?close) implementation of the program, the proposed allocation for the revised ADP is reduced to 7,150 crore taka.

In the revised ADP, special priorities have been attached to power, transport, water resources, agriculture, and family welfare sectors. In addition, the allocation for infrastructural developments in districts and upazilas [subdistricts] has been increased from 60 crore taka to 217 crore taka. This has contributed to employment generation and physical infrastructural development of remote areas. The allocations for the four city corporations have been raised from 10 crore taka to 62 crore taka. In the revised ADP, 95 crore taka has been allocated for canal digging and Dhaka city flood protection scheme, while there was no allocation in the original ADP for these purposes. For rehabilitation of the April 1991 cyclone-affected coastal areas, 29 projects were included in the ADP with an outlay of 300 crore taka. Massive construction works under these projects are now at the completion stage. For completion of these projects and economic rehabilitation of the affected people of the coastal zones, an amount of 512 crore taka has been proposed in the ADP of the coming fiscal year.

The finance minister said the present government's policy is to maximize investment expenditure by minimizing revenue expenditure, and, at the same time, by increasing revenue receipts in a planned way. Consistent with this policy, the ADP allocation for 1992-93 has been estimated at 8,650 crore taka, which is 21 percent higher than current year's revised ADP. For the first time in five years, it has been possible to allocate larger amount for development than the revenue sector.

Considering the major contribution of agriculture sector in the national income, highest allocation of 1,416 crore taka has been proposed for agriculture and water

resources. In the education sector, 782 crore taka has been proposed against this year's revised allocation of 492 crore taka. In terms of resource allocation, primary education will continue to enjoy high priority. A three-year program has been undertaken for rehabilitation of about 9,000 primary schools and nationalization of one girl school and a college in those upazilas which do not have any government girl school and government college. As a part of implementation of this program, an amount of 100 crore taka has been proposed out of own resources. This will contribute to eliminating the curse of illiteracy and generate new employment opportunities for 20,000 teachers in the next three years, most of which will be filled up by women. Allocation has been increased considerably for social sectors like health, family welfare, women affairs, and youth development.

The highest ever ADP allocation of 1,140 crore taka has been proposed for power sector to ensure uninterrupted power supply with proper implementation of ongoing projects. The finance minister announced the government's decision to reduce fuel price by 30 paise a liter. As a result, the government will lose directly or indirectly about 50 crore taka as revenue.

A three-year rolling program has been prepared with only overall framework of the fourth five-year plan. The major action under this program will be for poverty alleviation, human resources development, education, health and other social sectors, and infrastructural development. The objective of the introduction of the program is to ensure proper implementation of the current projects undertaken on the basis of realistic estimates of resources.

The finance minister, giving a brief resume of the positive results accrued from fiscal measures taken by the present government, proposed 446 crore taka to be collected through new fiscal measures in the new budget. Mr. Saifur Rahman said the government under dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has been able to reverse the downward trend of tax collection and internal resource mobilization. Realization of tax revenue up to last month from the current fiscal year has been 25 percent higher from that of the same period in the previous year. About the present ineffective and faulty system, he said it provides ample opportunity for tax evasion. A simple transparent and flexible income tax system can change the present situation. Mr. Saifur Rahman said the revenue GDP [Gross Domestic Product] ratio for the next fiscal year has been estimated at 11 percent through enchancing the growth rate of revenue.

About the proposed resonance of the structure, the existing 11 duty rates are to be reduced to seven with 100 percent at the maximum while 7.5 percent at the minimum. The highest rate will be applicable to alcoholic beverages and certain luxury goods.

The finance minister proposed changes in income tax system with a view to broadening the tax base. Total revenue loss on account of these changes is estimated at 95 crore taka. The finance minister proposed the abolition of the system of clearance certificate as property and instead raised the rate of education to 6 percent which will yield an additional revenue of 10 crore taka. The finance minister proposed 1,700 taka tax for travel to North America, South America, Europe, Africa, Australia, and the Far Eastern countries. Five hundred taka for SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] member countries and 1,200 taka for other countries.

The tax rate of 150 taka and 500 taka for travel by land and sea will, however, remain unchanged. This adjustment will yield of an additional amount of 20 crore taka. The finance minister said an additional amount of 211 crore taka will be realized from the measures taken for broadening the tax base, recovery of arrear taxes, curbing evasion, and expeditious disposal of pending case. To provide incentive to savings and investments, and in view of current reduction of interest rates, the finance minister proposed the abolition of present development and Jamuna Bridge levies. He proposed the abolition of advertisement tax for media to which VAT [Value Added Tax] is applicable. About stamp duty, it has been proposed to replace the present two rates by uniform rate of 12 percent on the value of property to be paid by the purchasers. In consistence with the proposed reduction of income tax rates and to encourage savings and investments, the finance minister proposed that the present maximum limit of 50 percent income and wealth tax of an assessee be fixed at 30 percent.

Regarding indirect taxes, the finance minister proposed to reduce customs duty on certain construction materials. These include grey Portland cement, white cement, billet, barbed BP sheet, sheet piling wood, veneer sheet, coal, stones, and stone boulders.

The finance minister proposed to change the customs duty structure significantly to improve the transport sector and to keep transportation cost within the reach of the common man. Duty on imported diesel-operated bus and minibus will be reduced from 60 percent to 30 percent. Duty rates for diesel and petrol-operated bus and minibus will be uniform. Customs duty on motor car and station wagon up to 850 cc will be reduced from 60 percent to 45 percent. On those exceeding 850 cc but not 1,000 cc from 100 percent to 75 percent, on those exceeding 1,000 cc but not 1,300 cc from 175 percent to 100 percent, and on those exceeding 1,300 cc from 350 percent to 200 percent.

Customs duty rates of 100 percent and 75 percent applicable on spare parts of automotive vehicles will be rationalized at uniform rate of 45 perecent. Duty on tires and tubes for motor cars was also proposed to be reduced from 100 percent to 75 percent. The finance minister said one of the most important objectives of the present government is to enable the common people purchase daily necessities at affordable prices. To this end, he proposed to reduce customs duty on crude, degummed soyabean oil from existing 40 percent to 30 percent and crude palm oil or olive from 50 percent to 45 percent.

Customs duty on rapeseeds, soyabean seeds, and mustard seeds was also revised from 20 percent to 15 percent, while duty on refined soyabean and palm oil will be lowered from 100 percent to 75 percent. Customs duty on copra [dry coconut kernel] and masoor dal [lentils] will be refixed at 15 percent instead of present 20 percent. Duty on imported fruits was reduced from 75 percent to 60 percent to bring down their prices.

India

Delhi Not Intimidated by 'Unjust U.S. Pressures'

BK1706164592 Delhi All India Radio Network in Hindi 1515 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] The two-day official-level talks between India and the United States will commence in New Delhi tomorrow. C. Dasgupta, additional secretary in the External Affairs Ministry, will lead the Indian side, and Teresita Schaffer, deputy assistant secretary of state, will lead that of the United States. A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry told newsmen that the talks will cover all aspects of bilateral relations.

Commenting on the U.S. restrictions against India under the missile control policy, the spokesman said we are not suprised by them, and during the talks India will reaffirm its commitment toward research and development for peaceful purposes. The spokesman said we will not be intimidated by such unjust pressures.

Spokesman Denies Reports on Secret Nuclear Deal

BK1706114292 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 0932 GMT 17 Jun 92

["Spokesman's response to a question on newspaper reports regarding illicit import of arms by India dated 15 June 1992"]

[Text] Responding to a question relating to a story in SUNDAY TIMES, London, regarding a 'secret sale' of equipment by a firm named GEC-Marconi for India's missile programme, the spokesman stated that the story is inaccurate, clearly motivated, misleading, mischievous, and malacious. As far as the alleged 'secret sale' of missile components is concerned, the spokesman said that India firmly denied any insinuation that any clandestine transactions in this area have taken place. In fact, the negotiations commenced with the British company as far back as in 1986, to supply this particular part (i.e., MO [expansion unknown] valves). These negotiations were undertaken after prior and full clearance was obtained from the government. All the necessary government approvals were obtained.

This particular component which is used to manufacture magnetrons to our own designed specifications, is intended for use in short range surface-to-air missiles. These are not only indigenously designed, but are developed and produced indigenously. They are not for use in long range ballistic missiles. Further, it is to be noted that these short range missiles do not attract the provisions of the MTCR [Missile Technology Control Regime] (which itself is a set of guidelines followed by a group of countries unilaterally since Apr 1987).

This applies equally to the allegation made in the story about our nuclear energy programme which is a multifaceted one and which is strictly for peaceful purposes. Here again we entered into commercial transactions with several countries with all appropriate export clearances. As regards the specific allegation of a deal with GEC-Marconi is concerned, in the recent past, BARC [Bhaba Atomic Research Center] has had no commercial dealings with them. Further, the copper vapour lasers are manufactured at our centre for advanced technology, Indore, which is a research institute working under the Department of Atomic Energy. The wild allegations about BARC are clearly intended to bring into disrepute, India's atomic energy establishments and to draw attention away from the central fact that India is the only developing country which has a major programme of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, manifested in the large number of our operative power plants and also clearly demonstrated by the number of research facilities which engaged in applications of nuclear energy for agriculture, industry and health, amongst others.

India's nuclear energy programme which includes fast breeder reactors requires plutonium as fuel and India has the indigenous capability for going ahead with this programme. It also has the necessary expertise to develop it comprehensively and with self reliance.

Pakistan Orders Probe in Attack on Indian Diplomat

BK1706144792 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] The Pakistan Government has informed the Indian High Commission in Islamabad that an inquiry has been ordered into the attack by unknown armed persons on the consul in the Indian Consulate General in Karachi, Mr. D. Shrivastava. A cabinet minister, Chaudhary Nissar Ali, spoke to the Indian High Commissioner, Mr. S.K. Lamba, in this connection today.

Government 'Closely' Examining Attack

BK1706161292 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] The government is closely examining yesterday's attack on the Indian diplomat in Karachi. The spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said today that the foreign office got in touch with the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi even as India's High Commissioner in Islamabad, Mr. S.K. Lamba, lodged a strong protest with the Pakistani authorities. The spokesaman gave two interpretations to the incident. He said it could be a case where certain elements in Pakistan are acting in a manner which makes clear that they are not under the control of the government. The other explanation to the incident and similar events, the spokesman

said, could be that the Pakistani Government is speaking in different voices during conversations with our leaders. He said Pakistani actions on the ground at variance with the tone and tenor of the high-level political discussions.

Meanwhile, the Pakistan government has informed the Indian High Commission in Islamabad that an inquiry has been ordered into the attack by unknown armed persons on the consul in the Indian Consulate General in Karachi, Mr. D. Shrivastava. A cabinet minister, Chaudhary Nissar Ali, spoke to the Indian High Commissioner, Mr. S.K. Lamba, in Islamabad today.

Pakistani 'Duplicity' Seen

BK1406135292 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 14 Jun 92

[Hari Jai Singh Commentary: "Pakistan's Diplomatic Terrorism"]

[Text] After grossly violating the Vienna Convention on diplomatic niceties, Pakistan ironically enough has proposed a code of conduct to allow free movement of diplomats in each other's countries and prevent any possible harassment to them. This is a typical example of Pakistan's duplicity and double-games to mislead other countries. Pakistan's foreign secretary, Mr. Shaharyar Khan, while handing over the draft of the proposed code of conduct to the Indian [high] commissioner at Islamabad, Mr. S.K. Lamba, described the syndrome of harassment of diplomats as highly regrettable. But, who set in this process of harassment, (?way) of barbaric acts of torture? The gruesome Rajesh Mittal episode apart, yet another attempt at harassment of our diplomat has been reported from Karachi where our counselor general, Mr. Dinkar Shrivastava, was attacked by some unidentified men.

The brutal assault of a senior Indian diplomat, Mr. Rajesh Mittal, by Pakistani intelligence agencies not only violated the letter and spirit of the Vienna Convention, but was totally uncivilized and barbaric. Even if India agrees to respond positively to Islamabad's proposal, where is the guarantee that its department of dirty tricks will behave and follow the code blessed by its own government. After all, Islamabad too is a signatory of the Vienna Convention that regulates the nature and scope of diplomatic relations. It is one thing to expel a diplomat as India did by declaring two Pakistani diplomats in retaliation as persona non grata, but quite another thing to torture him before doing so. Article 29 of the Vienna Convention states specifically that the [word indistinct] of a diplomatic agent shall be inviolable.

Islamabad is apparently indulging in a shadowboxing with an eye on the gathering of world leaders at the Earth Summit at Rio de Janeiro where Indian prime minister among other world dignitaries is also scheduled to meet his Pakistani counterpart Nawaz Sharif. The Pakistani authorities on second thought are obviously trying to soften the bitterness that has developed in the bilateral ties by their own calculated follies. New Delhi's response on the other hand has been dignified. It rightly canceled the foreign secretary- level talks just to convey to Islamabad that it means business and that it does not relish Pakistan's diplomacy of torture and harassment. More than the paper exercise in framing yet another, we don't care for code of conduct. [sentence as heard] What Islamabad needs is a change of attitudes. If its basic outlook continues to be as mischievous as it is today, no new attempt at evolving a code for diplomats can work. Islamabad has to prove that it is genuinely honest and serious about improving its ties with New Delhi and refrain not only from its diplomatic terrorism, but also from terrorist activities in Punjab and Kashmir.

Once Pakistan sets its own house in order and winds down its interventionist policy toward India, it will be genuinely easier to repair the damage done to the bilateral relations. Will there be any genuine change of heart on the part of the Pakistani rulers? Look at Islamabad's track records. One cannot afford to be unduly optimistic even though the global scenario has made imperative for the two countries to evolve a joint strategy for dealing with the post-Cold War realities. The new global realities demand that India and Pakistan bury their hatchets and cooperate closely for mutual economic and political advantages. What is however regrettable is that Pakistan's military bureaucratic elite is still guided by the Cold War logic and has adopted a myopic and negative approach in its dealings with India.

Government, Unions Blamed for Strike Loss

BK1706035892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Commentary by M.K. Shukla of THE HINDUSTAN TIMES: "General Strike and Politics of One-Upmanship"]

[Text] Yesterday's general strike partially failed and partially succeeded. The government claimed that the strike failed because the people and the working classes were not opposed to its new economic policies. The trade unions' sponsoring committee claimed that the strike succeeded because the government failed to accede to their demand on DA [Dearness Allowance] and wages, retrenchment in sick [loss-incurring] units, and economic policy reforms. Both government and trade unions apparently looked at the strike from their own angle. Basically, their claims were not contradictory. But, they tried to create an impression that only their version was authentic, depending on which side they were on. In other words, they were attempting at one-upmanship over each other. Was the strike a necessity? Wasn't it possible for the government to avert it? No, the strike wasn't necessary. Yes, the government could have averted it. The strike, in so far as the working class is concerned, failed to serve their interest. In fact, the strikers lost their day's wages and they are sure to feel bitter about it. The government possibly could have avoided causing this bitterness by at least appearing to be attending to their demands. Between 3d June, when

the government negotiated for the last time with trade unions, and 16th June, the government had a total of 13 days to implement the promise made at 3 June meeting by the minister of state for labor, Mr. P.A. Sangma. He had then promised that he would ensure the withdrawal of the guidelines banning fresh wage negotiations, but he could not do anything to keep his promise during this period. Not because he did not want to keep his promise, but because the system as it is would not permit it. Maybe, there is a point in the government allegation that the left unions were itching for a fight on the new economic policy. Surely, they have been crying hoarse over the issue for the last one year, but this will surely not reduce the government's responsibility in averting the strike. It could have used the long period between the introduction of the new economic policy last year and now to hammer out a national consensus on the policy reforms it introduced in the last two budgets.

Peripheral issues seem to cloud our vision as a nation. We see consensus on the election of president where there should be a good battle between the ruling and opposition parties. But, we do not see consensus on economic issues that concern the life of every citizen. The striking trade unions were right when they said the new economic policy was formulated without consulting them. Cooperation and not confrontation is the key to growth. The strike could have been averted if the government made the trade unions feel that they were their partners. The strike could have been averted if the trade unions had shouldered their responsibility and said they were willing to assist the government in formulating packages for reviving sick industries. None of these happened. In the process, as Mr. Sangma said, the country lost about 300 crore rupees worth of production.

Sharma Named Ruling Party Candidate for Presidency

BK1806144492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma [country's vice president] is the Congress-I candidate in the presidential election. This was announced by the party spokesman, Mr. V.N. Gadgil, in New Delhi today. Briefing newsmen, Mr. Gadgil said Dr. Sharma will file his nomination papers tomorrow. The Congress-I spokesman said that the party hopes all political parties will support the candidature of Dr. Sharma.

Iran

Opposition Leader Rajavi Meets With Saddam Husayn

NC1906072992 (Clandestine) Voice of Mojahed in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Excerpt] Brother Mas'ud Rajavi, leader of the National Resistance Council and commander in chief of the National Liberation Army [NLA], met with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. During this meeting, they exchanged views on the regional situation and the terroristic intervention and plots of the Khomeyni regime against the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization [MKO] inside Iraqi territory.

Brother mojahed Rajavi discussed the Khomeyni regime officials' actions and their bombardment of territories inside Iraq, termed these acts as blatant violations of the cease-fire, and stressed that the Iranian regime's terrorism, which went on all throughout last year and will continue, clearly proves that the criminal clerics do not want peace. It is this terroristic and theocratic dictatorship which is the center of tension and crises in this part of the world.

The leader of the resistance added: The people of Iran have staged massive uprisings and have proclaimed the illegitimacy and the imminent downfall of the clerical regime to the entire world. Therefore the remnants of Khomeyni, like himself, see themselves as continuing their rule through increased repression of the Iranian people and through exporting reactionary measures and terrorism, as well as in interfering in the internal affairs of others.

The tottering regime, which is in the grip of the utmost dread and fear regarding the proliferating wave of the resistance by the Iranian people, considers the mojahedin and their bases the source of nationwide resistance and the regime's main threat. Therefore the MKO is the main target of the regime's terrorism, such as aerial bombardment, abduction, and the planting of bombs.

The echelons of the reactionary dictatorship believe that by such dastardly hole-and-corner methods, they can eliminate the Iranian resistance, the only democratic alternative [preceding two words in English]; that is, the National Resistance Council. Such insane adventurism threatens to topple these very echelons.

Rajavi expressed confidence that with the toppling of the remnants of Khomeyni and the attainment of Iran's freedom, peace, stability, and friendship will be established in this part of the world.

The Iraqi president (?welcomed) the mojahedin's victory and the Iranian resistance and expressed hope that peace and good-neighborly relations will be established between the countries.

The meeting between Rajavi and Husayn has been widely reported by international news agencies. [passage omitted]

Mojahedin-e Khalq Expecting Attacks From Iran

NC1906065092 Paris AFP in English 0110 GMT 19 Jun 92

[Text] Paris, June 19 (AFP) - The Iranian armed opposition group, the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization [MKO], is expecting new Iranian Government attacks against its bases in Iraq, an official of the movement said here Thursday.

The Iranian Army has been put on a state of alert along the border with Iraq, Mohammad Mohadesin told a news conference here Thursday.

The MKO is calling for demonstrations in some 100 European and American cities Saturday in solidarity with "the popular uprisings in Iran," he also said.

According to a statement from the movement, its leader Mas'ud Rajavi spoke about the Iranian alert to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn in Baghdad Wednesday.

On April 5, the Iranian Air Force carried out a raid against an MKO base northeast of the Iraqi capital.

Mohadesin said that the Iranian Government alert included the Air Force and the Revolutionary Guards.

The MKO official linked the measure to mass demonstrations which he said had taken place in recent weeks in various Iranian towns.

He added that the National Liberation Army of Iran, the MKO's armed wing, was preparing, in coordination with a growing mass movement in the country, to "have the last word" as regards the government in Tehran.

The National Liberation Army had carried out 200 operations since the Iranian New Year on March 21, he claimed.

According to the MKO, the unrest seen in several towns in Iran in recent weeks has not abated, with troubles erupting last Tuesday at Karaj, 40 kilometres (25 miles) west of Tehran.

Lebanese Iran-Iraq War Prisoners To Be Released

LD1706173192 Tehran IRNA in English 0648 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] Beirut, June 17, IRNA—Some 40 Lebanese war prisoners who fought alongside Iraq and were captured by Iran during 1980-88 Iraq-Iran war will be released next week, an Iranian diplomat announced here Tuesday.

Iran's Charge D'Affaires to Beirut Homayun 'Alizadeh made the remark in meetings with Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid al-Sulh and Parliament Speaker Husseyn al-Husseyni Tuesday.

'Alizadeh and the Lebanese senior officials also discussed issues related to the Muslims in Southern Lebanon.

He reiterated the Islamic republic's support for the oppressed Lebanese people and the resistance forces fighting against the occupying Zionists.

The Iranian diplomat told IRNA here that Iran's donations to the Lebanese people including 70 tons of foodstuff and blankets will be distributed in Lebanon.

Commenting on the hostage issue, he expressed hope that the question will be completely solved and that all hostages including the Iranian hostages held by Phalangists will be released.

Turkey's Foreign Minister Regrets Train Attack

LD1706180792 Tehran IRNA in English 1156 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] Ankara, June 17, IRNA—Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin on Wednesday personally expressed regret over the armed assault on an Ankara-bound passenger train which led to the killing of an Iranian child and wounding of nine others.

In a meeting with visiting Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Cetin, saying that Turkey attaches great importance to its ties with the Islamic Republic, pointed out that Ankara will do its best to remove obstacles existing in Irano-Turkish relations.

Velayati, referring to the bonds shared by the two countries, called for exchange of delegation between the two countries.

On the alarming situation of Muslims in the Bosnia-Hercegovina Republic, he urged all Muslim countries to take "more effective measures" to stop the massacre of Muslims in that republic by Serbs.

The two also agreed that serious decisions should be made by Muslim countries to immediately halt the bloodshed of Muslims in Bosnia-Hercegovina and that the two countries should be in constant contact in preparation for the summit meet of Nonaligned Movement to be held in Jakarta in September.

Culture Minister Meets Lebanese Media Head

NC1706192492 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] Dr. Muhammad Khatami-Ardakani, Iran's culture and Islamic guidance minister, stated that Iran supports Lebanon's efforts to regain peace and security and liberate its land. The time has come, he said, for the Lebanese people to live in peace, security, and stability; they have had enough suffering.

The Iranian minister was speaking during a meeting with NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY [NNA] Director Rafiq Shalalah, who is representing Lebanon at the 6th Conference of the Nonaligned News Agencies, currently being held in Tehran. Shalalah handed the Iranian minister a message from Lebanese Information Minister Michel Samahah. In the message, Samahah stressed the need to promote bilateral information and cultural cooperation in the interest of the two countries as part of consolidating Lebanese-Iranian relations.

The Iranian minister asked Shalalah to convey an oral message to Minister Samahah and an invitation for the

Lebanese minister to visit Tehran. The invitation will be confirmed by a written reply message that he will send to his Lebanese counterpart.

Discussions focused on assistance Iran could provide the Lebanese Information Ministry in light of the report Shalalah presented on the ministry's needs. Minister Khatami expressed his ministry's readiness to help the Information Ministry.

Afghan Affairs Envoy, Hezb-e Eslami Leader Meet

LD1806154392 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] Mr. Musavi, the Islamic Republic of Iran's envoy in Afghan affairs, met yesterday with Golboddin Hekmatyar, the leader of the Afghan Hezb-e Eslami party, and they discussed the common stances of the two countries of Iran and Afghanistan.

This is the first meeting between an Iranian official and Hekmatyar since the mojahedin government in Afghanistan assumed power.

Yugoslav Muslim Leader Appeals to ICO

LD1706172192 Tehran IRNA in English 0518 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] Belgrade, June 17, IRNA—Yugoslavia's reis-ul-ulema [Muslim community leader], Haźzi Jakub Selimovski, has appealed to foreign ministers of the Organization of the Islamic Conference [ICO] who are to meet in Istanbul Wednesday to do all they can to ensure speedy military intervention in Bosnia-Hervegovina (B-H).

Selimovski, the text of whose address to the Istanbul ministerial session of OIC was delivered to IRNA here, points to the genocide perpetrated by Serbia and Montenegro against Bosnian Muslims, the largest ethnic group in the republic.

Selimoski is the highest Muslim religious personality in the territory of the former Yugoslavia and the head of the newly founded Union of Islamic Communities in East European countries.

According to Selimovski's address, over 20,000 people are dead or missing, mainly Muslims, in two months of warfare in the republic, whose independence was recognized by Europe in April followed by the United Nations.

"If you do not do something now, the question is what will become of us tomorrow," says Selimovski, pointing out that it is the aim of Serbia and Montenegro (who now make up the new Yugoslavia) to drive Muslims from their homes in order to create "ethnically pure" regions.

The problem of displaced and homeless persons of all three groups, Serbs, Croats and Muslims in Bosnia is now enormous. Their number says Selimovski, is estimated at over 1.5 million, half of whom are inside the republic.

The reis-ul-ulema called on the Islamic and world public to prevent "the coming threat" to Muslims in the Serbian area of the Sandzak and in the southern province of Kosovo, as well as in Serbia and Montenegro themselves.

Delineating the willful damage to mosques and Muslim property, Selimovski reminds his listeners: "We all are the umma of Prophet Mohammad (pbuh). Other states support their minorities, whether national or religious in other countries. I think that the Muslim world should lead in this respect."

He concludes with the hope that the Islamic countries would make a maximum contribution to stopping the war in Bosnia-Hercegovina.

Industrial Cooperation Discussed With Georgia

LD1706181692 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Text] Expanding technical, industrial, and training cooperation between Iran and Georgia was stressed at a meeting between both countries' industries ministers. Both sides expressed interest in exchanging industrial and economic information between Iran and Georgia and called for widening cooperation in the fields of engineering, design, house construction, and joint production by benefiting from each others' resources and experience.

Earth Summit Seen As 'Anything But Success'

LD1706201992 Tehran IRNA in English 1744 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] New Delhi, June 17, IRNA—Despite all the tall claims made by the world's leaders as they return from Rio, the Earth Summit has been anything but a success.

The hopes that the conference had aroused in the industrialised countries—that it would take the first steps towards making the world safe for future generations—have been belied. At the same time, some of the misgivings harboured by the developing countries about its possible outcome have come true.

Along with other developing countries, India and the rest of the seven South Asian countries have undertaken to limit the increase in their consumption of fossil fuels energy to reduce air and water pollution and to protect the biological diversity of their flora and fauna.

But the additional resources they had hoped to get from the rich, which alone would make it possible for them to fulfill these promises without diverting their own scarce resources away from development are nowhere in sight.

Only one country, Japan, has given any firm indication that it is willing to increase resource transfers bilaterally to compensate the developing countries for the responsibility they are being asked to shoulder.

The conference has decided to set up a sustainable development commission to monitor the performance of the signatories of the treaties.

From this to the application of trade and other sanctions against erring countries is a short step.

The only gain from the developing countries point of view has been the isolation of the U.S. from the other developed countries because of its unwillingness to sign the biodiversity commitments—to reduce carbon dioxide emissions—from the global warming treaty.

The non-governmental organisations from the poor nations of the south have demanded that a convention on poverty be negotiated immediately, alleging that the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) or Earth Summit was an 'absolute disaster' because it had failed to address the issue of poverty which concerns a vast majority of people in the world.

Addressing a press conference after launching the 'Global Forum for Environment and Poverty,' (GFEP) Mr. Atiq Rahman of the Bangladesh centre for advanced studies, said there can be no sustainable development of the north or the south or the planet earth without eradication of poverty. "To us, the central question in environment is poverty. And this has not been adequately addressed at UNCED."

Mr. Anil Aggarwal of the New Delhi based Centre for Science and Environment, another member organisation of the new forum, said "the UNCED was a disaster even before it started because it addressed only the Western agenda of global warming and biodiversity and [word indistinct] organisation of the new forum, said "the UNCED was a disaster even before it started because it addressed only the Western agenda of global warming and biodiversity and lent out the issue of poverty which affects a majority of the people of this earth."

Mr. Achuka Awori of Kengo, a coalition of 200 Kenyan organisations, said the Western media and the governments were playing up population as a major cause for environmental degradation but "we believe that the cause is over consumption of the earth's resources by the people of north."

According to the UN's own figures, the north, where 30 percent of the world's people live, consumed 70 percent of the world's resources. Also, the earth produces enough food for all people that inhabit it but it is not distributed equally and evenly.

The declaration also demands that the flow of resources from the south to the north be stopped immediately.

Nearly dlrs 400 billion are transferred from the south to the north annually, according to the figures released by the centre for science and environment.

Arguing that the trend be reversed, Mr. Anil Aggarwal said the practice of all civil nations of taxing the rich for supporting the poor must be followed at the global level.

The reasons why the Rio conference has ended in disappointment are not far to seek. Indeed, they were spelled out by none other than President George Bush while explaining why he refused to sign the Biodiversity Treaty and insisted on watering down the Treaty on Global Warming. He said he could not let concern for the environment cost his country jobs.

If that is true for the richest nation on earth then it is many times more true for the developing nations which are plagued with population growth, unemployment and a scarcity of capital, foreign exchange and technology.

Agenda 21, the ambitious blueprint for an ecologically safe world that was debated in Rio, failed to resolve the implied conflict between environment and development. It failed because it chose to make the safe recommendation that countries should try to reduce their consumption of energy and find cleaner ways of using what they must, instead of the riskier recommendation that they look for environmentally benign source of energy and continue to grow.

The omission is understandable, for at present the entire superstructure of industry is built on the energy base of coal and oil and would have to be changed if the world switched to a radically different source of energy. But a moment's reflection shows, for most developing countries, particularly for those of South Asia—this is the only way to go.

South Asia's main needs are power for its industries, transport fuels for its rapidly growing transport sector and non-commercial cooking fuels for the poor. Indeed, the last is the most urgent because almost half of the total energy consumed by the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] countries is accounted for by the domestic sector and consists mainly of non-commercial fuels scrounged from its dwindling forests and grasslands.

All these needs can be met from two sources of energy that not only make no demands on the eco-system but help strengthen it: Solar energy for power generation and biomass for transport fuels, fertilisers and non-commercial cooking fuels.

The implications of such energy are staggering—no more dependence on oil imports. But the implications for the eco-system are equally astounding.

Solar power is, by definition, clean. The cleanest and most efficient form of biomass is wood. But since wood is in short supply in most developing countries, it will have to be grown. This means, millions of acres of semi-arid lands at present either lying fallow or under low-yielding low value crops can be brought profitably under fuel woodtrees.

All the above technologies are fully proven. They have not been brought into commercial use yet as their cost is far higher than that of conventional power generation or the production of transport fuels from oil. However, were the full social cost of relying on fossil fuels to be taken into account, it is likely the scales would tip the other way.

By highlighting the poverty of the conventional approach to sustainable development, the Rio summit may have done the world a favour.

Security Forces, Demonstrators Clash in Bukan

NC1806104492 Paris AFP in English 1013 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] Tehran, June 18 (AFP) - Seventeen people were killed or wounded earlier this month in clashes between Iranian security forces and demonstrators in the northwestern town of Bukan, a pro-radical newspaper reported Thursday. SALAM said the fighting in the Western Azerbaijan Province left extensive damage. It did not elaborate.

On Wednesday, the JAHAN-E ESLAM newspaper, which is also close to hardliners, reported that a soldier was killed in Bukan by "counter- revolutionaries" and buried in Tabriz. JAHAN-E ESLAM did not explain the circumstances for the bloodshed.

Reliable sources here meanwhile reported that dead and wounded fell in Bukan on June 8 during clashes between Revolutionary Guards militiamen and residents who were protesting the killing of a person by the paramilitary force.

Last week the JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI newspaper reported that 13 Revolutionary Guards, also known as Pasdarans, were recently killed in western Iran by opposition militants of the People's Mojahedin [Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization].

Pro-Regime Rally Staged in Mazandaran Province

LD1806202792 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] The people of Amol, Tonekabon, Ramsar, Mahmud Abad, Nowshahr, Chalus, and 'Abbas Abad in northern Mazandaran Province staged glorious demonstrations on Thursday. Reiterating their support for the leadership of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i and the government of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, they announced their unbreakable will in defending the gains of the Islamic revolution.

Oil Minister Says Oil Products Up 45 Percent

LD1706175392 Tehran IRNA in English 1418 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] Tehran, June 17, IRNA—Minister of Oil Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i said here today that petrochemical products in the Iranian calendar year 1370 (March 1991-March 1992) was upwards of four million tons up by 45 percent compared to the past calendar year.

Speaking at the general assembly of National Petrochemical Industries Company at the presence of President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Aqazadeh-Kho'i said this year new petrochemical plants in Isfahan and Arak would be commissioned.

The assembly exchanged views over Iran's second five-year development plan in the field of petrochemical industries whose output is expected to reach 12 million tons during that project.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani appreciated the efforts of the company's staff for improving of the quality of petrochemical products and for rapid implementation of the company's new projects and offered necessary guidelines to the assembly in that respect.

Reward for Killing Rushdie 'Still Stands'

LD1706184592 Tehran IRNA in English 1431 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] Semnan, Jun 17, IRNA—A senior cleric said here today that a two-million dollar bounty offered by the 15th-Khordad Foundation of Iran to a prospective killer of Salman Rushdie, writer of 'The Satanic Verses' still stands.

Ayatollah Hasan Sane'i, personal representative of the leader of the Islamic Republic at the Foundation, unequivocally denied rumors in the Western media that the religious decree against Rushdie had been commuted.

He added the Iranian Foundation would also compensate or reimburse the would-be killer for all "additional expenditures" incurred or to be incurred by him.

The religious ruling was issued against the British writer of 'The Satanic Verses' by Imam Khomeyni for blaspheming Islam and the sanctities of Muslims.

Officers Seize 147 Kg Opium; 12 Arrested

LD1806122492 Tehran IRNA in English 0956 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] Mashhad, Khorasan Prov., June 18 IRNA—Khorasan law enforcement officers seized some 147 kgs of opium in this northeastern province Wednesday.

Twelve smugglers were arrested and two automobiles were confiscated in this operation.

Pakistan

Russian Plan To Move Arms Plants to India Viewed

BK1906092492 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Mohammad Yamin Commentary]

[Text] The Russian ambassador in New Delhi has made a startling as well as disturbing disclosure that his country has offered to shift some of its arms factories to India. The proposed move would include the relocation of some of its armament production units, manufacturing frontline aircraft, battle tanks and armored cars in India. Russian plan also envisages the establishment of a joint venture in India to make up for the loss of its space launch facility to Kazakhstan. The Russian ambassador has tendered a naive explanation that the proposal of relocation is the result of Russia's own present economic compulsions. Talking about known facts, one wonders whether Russia is totally unaware of India's own current economic plight. A vast majority of this South Asian nation of almost 1,000 million people is virtually on the verge of starvation and heavy weaponry is at this point of time the last thing the Indians need for their sustenance.

Russia and India could, perhaps, devise some other joint plans to overcome their existing grave economic problems, whose aim should appropriately be the improvement of the quality of lives of their people and not the manufacture of deadly lethal weapons that can only more wreak havoc on population. The Russians have conceded that the sophisticated arms to be produced in India will be marketed to the Third World countries. Are these two giants oblivious of the fact that the Third World countries are already groaning under heavy expenditures on armament? Would India and Russia like not only to thrive on the misery of their brethren in the Third World, but, perhaps, compound their miseries in order to promote the sales of their deadly goods?

It is indeed ironic that at a time when there is so much talk about world disarmament and peace dividend, even the Russian president has just arrived at an agreement with the U.S. President for a further sizable reduction in stockpiles of their strategic arms, the Russian Government should be thinking of boosting its armament production with the active collaboration of India—the country that never seems to tire of proclaiming its deep commitment to peace and nonviolence. India is already a big military power—the third of the four largest and strongest in the world. The planned augmentation of its military capability would not only result in its adoption of an even stiffer posture toward its smaller neighbors, who already feel threatened by its belligerent attitude, it would also cause jitters among the Middle Eastern countries, besides Asian states and nations such as China, Australia, Indonesia, Afghanistan and Iran whom India regards as a part and parcel of its strategic [word indistinct].

Pakistan has suffered seriously more than once at the hands of India's military might and is constantly under threat from its saber rattling stance. Pakistan's sincere and consistent efforts to resolve its outstanding disputes with India, particularly on Kashmir and nonproliferation issue, have made no headway because of India's intransigence stemming primarily from the knowledge of its military strength. Any further addition to the Indian military prowess that will accrue from the Russian plan, if it materializes, would seriously jeopardize the political balance in the region and would be a potential threat to the world peace.

Plan 'Disturbing'

BK1806112392 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 18 Jun 92 p 6

[Editorial: "A disturbing development for the region"]

[Text] The news that Russia has offered to shift some of its arms factories to India is as unexpected as it is disturbing. What are the Russians upto? Are they acting on their own or is it part of some American-Russian design to use India as an instrument of American strategy in the region? All the euphoria about world disarmament and the peace dividend seems to have evaporated in thin air. The irony is that the news about Russian-Indian joint ventures in the field of armaments comes in the wake of the agreement reached between US President George Bush and Russian President Boris Yeltsin to cut down their strategic arms to an even level lower than the one earlier agreed upon between the United States and the USSR.

If the major manufacturers of nuclear, chemical, and conventional arms are seriously planning to cut down their arsenals, what could be the object of re-locating their manufacturing units in countries like India where a majority of the people are living on the verge of starvation? Guns is hardly what they need for sustenance.

It is difficult to believe that the Russian move to relocate some of its manufacturing units capable of producing frontline aircraft, tanks and armoured cars does not have the tacit support of the United States. It has also been disclosed that Russia, which lost its space launch facility of the Baykonur Cosmodrome to Kazakhstan, is interested in setting up a joint space launch facility near the equator in India. The Russian Ambassador in New Delhi would like the world to believe that all this is being done because of economic compulsions in Russia, but countries in South Asia and South East Asia are hardly likely to buy that explanation. With India developing a joint space launch facility and acquiring highly developed manufacturing units for the production of sophisticated weapons from Russia, it would become an even greater military threat to the whole of South Asia and South East Asia. India is at loggerheads with all her neighbours: the prospects of Russian military collaboration would only encourage the expansionist forces in India to pursue their hegemonic designs in the region. It

is obvious that the US policy makers are using the Russians,; who are entirely dependent on American economic assistance for their survival, to build India into an instrument of US strategic policies in South Asia, South East Asia and the Far East.

With Israel as America's principal military decoy in the Middle East, India could effectively cover the eastern flank to pose a threat to the Peoples Republic of China and to encircle the Muslim countries in South Asia and the Middle East. The warning given by the American Secretary of State, James Baker, that Pakistan should stop supporting groups alleged to be involved in terrorist acts in occupied Kashmir was clearly meant as a sop to India though it made a mockery of American pretentious concerns about human rights. It is obvious that India will use its growing military might, with American and Russian support to browbeat the smaller nations in the region, particularly Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iraq.

If that is going to be the shape of the New World Order steered by the US with the help of Israel, India and Russia, then one can say good-bye to the prospects of world peace and the much talked about peace dividend. The Russians have admitted that they want to use India for the manufacture and sale of sophisticated arms to Third World countries where military expenditures are already claiming an unacceptable proportion of their national resources.

We hope our Foreign Office will take serious note of this development and ascertain the exact nature of military collaboration between India, the United States and Russia. The issue must also be discussed at the next meeting of the Non-aligned Movement.

'Partial Unfreezing' of Mirage Negotiations Seen

BK1806165292 Hong Kong AFP in English 1648 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] Islamabad, June 18 (AFP)—Defence Minister Ghus Ali Shah's visit to France this week could coincide with at least the partial unfreezing of negotiations over the sale of 20 Mirage 2000 fighter jets to Pakistan, a source said here.

The source, considered highly reliable, said a financial problem largely responsible for the delay had been partly solved and Dassault Aviation, which makes the fighter plane, should be able to make an offer to Pakistan soon.

Shah is to arrive in France on Saturday and a Dassault Aviation delegation could arrive here in the next two or three weeks, the source said.

Problems in the negotiations led a Dassault delegation to cancel an earlier trip to Pakistan, and some Pakistan Air Force officials have shown irritation at what they consider procrastination on the French side.

An agreement in principle on delivery of the 20 planes was reached during Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's trip to Paris in January, but in recent weeks the reported cost of the planes has caused controversy here.

'Major Shakeup' in Sindh Police, Civil Services

BK1706152692 Hong Kong AFP in English 1434 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] Karachi, June 17 (AFP)—A major shake-up in the police and civil administrations of Sindh Province was made Wednesday, while the southern Pakistan province's chief minister opposed the idea of direct federal rule in the province.

"We will never be a party to any undemocratic dispensation in which people are parachuted," Syed Muzaffar Hussain Shah told the southern province's assembly amid speculation that the house would be dissolved to give the army a free hand.

More than 18,000 paramilitary rangers of the army-led Mehran Force have been mobilised in the province by the federal government and given six months to end what Islamabad says is an appalling law and order situation.

The security personnel have been ordered to root out subversive elements, bandits and allegedly anti-social elements from throughout Sindh, and officials have warned that the six-month period could be extended.

Shah said he "was only reflecting aspirations of the house so that if anyone thinks he can solve Sindh's deep-rooted problems through governor's rule (direct federal rule), he should give up this misconception."

Observers here interpreted the remarks to indicate a dispute between Shah and the federal government in Islamabad, although he denied any differences.

Meanwhile, 18 senior police and other officials were transferred or moved into other positions in the shake-up, which followed a meeting between Shah and the army commander here Tuesday.

The army commanders had complained that a "corrupt police and civil administration in Sindh were in league with the bandits and subversive elements" and warned that "unless they are changed, the desired results of the operation cannot be achieved."

The shake-up in the civilian administration follows a similar action by the army after it admitted killing nine innoncent villagers near Jamshoro earlier this month after first saying they were Indian-trained terrorists.

The "corrective measures" by the army were taken after widespread condemnation of the incident, in which an army major has been implicated and which led to an army court of enquiry.

Shah described as "baseless" news reports suggesting differences between he and the army over action against

the activities of coalition partners in Karachi and other parts of the province, and denied he had tried to stall the crackdown.

"We decide things in a joint operations committee and then take action, so how could there be impediments or resistance on our part," Shah said.

A conference by a number of opposition parties was meeting here Wednesday to disuss the army operation in Sindh.

Meanwhile, opposition leader and former premier Benazir Bhutto has written a letter to British Prime Minister John Major complaining of human rights violations in Sindh, her home province.

ICO Condemns Indian 'Violations' in Kashmir

BK1906032092 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 19 Jun 92

[Text] The foreign ministers conference of the Islamic Conference Organization has called for an early and peaceful solution of the Kashmir issue in accordance with the UN resolutions and the Simla Agreement. A communique issued at the end of the Conference's two-day extraordinary session in Istanbul yesterday expressed grave concern at the dangerous level of the indiscriminate use of force and the grave violations of human rights by India in occupied Kashmir. The Conference condemned these violations and called for respect for the Kashmiri people's human rights, including the right of self-determination. The Conference affirmed its support for the resolution on Jammu and Kashmir adopted at the sixth Islamic summit.

Federal Information Minister Abdul Sattar Lalika represented Pakistan at the conference.

Mine-Clearing Operations Begin in Afghanistan

BK1906022292 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 19 Jun 92

[Text] Mine clearing operation has begun in Afghanistan, especially along the Towr Kham-Kabul Highway. Radio Pakistan's special representative, who travelled from Peshawar to Kabul on this highway, has reported that repair and reconstruction work on the highway has also begun.

Meanwhile, the process of repatriation of Afghan refugees is continuing. Trucks and wagons are bringing the refugees back to their homes daily.

Prime Minister Begins Talks in United Kingdom

WA1806105892

For reportage on the visit to London by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, including his talks with UK Prime Minister Major and UK Foreign Secretary Hurd, see the United Kingdom section of the 17 June West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

DAWN Reports Arrest of Lahore 'Drug Baron'

BK1806095692 Karachi DAWN in English 18 Jun 92 p 8

[Text] Islamabad, June 17—A multi-millionaire of Lahore Mian Azam, has been arrested by the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) on charges of drug trafficking and is awaiting extradition to the United State, DAWN learnt on Wednesday.

FIA sources said Mian Azam, a drug baron of international fame wanted in several western countries was arrested from his residence in Lahore. Presently lodged in high-security Adyala jail in Rawalpindi, the multimillionaire is awaiting trial in the court of Additional Deputy Commissioner-General, Islamabad where the government has moved a request to seek his extradition.

Special investigation unit of FIA had received a report from Interpol regarding alleged involvement of Mian Azam in drug smuggling to United States and other western countries. United States has also requested the government of Pakistan for the extradition of Mian Azam, who is facing a case of drug smuggling in the southern district court of New York. The court has also issued his arrants of arrest.

Preliminary investigations carried out by the FIA revealed that the novel idea of smuggling heroin to western countries through post parcels was the brain child of Mian Azam.

Heroin was smuggled to western countries through post parcel with the connivance of some workers of Pakistan Post Office.

The heroin parcel booked for Netherlands was deliberately shipped to another non-heroin producing country from where it was redirected to its original destination by the postal authorities of the said country on the assumption that the parcel had reached there mistakenly.

When the parcel used to reach its original destination via another country, it was normally not checked at the receiving end, on the assumption that it was coming from a non-heroin manufacturing country.

Sri Lanka

Parliament Approves Extension of Emergency

BK1906093292 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0807 GMT 19 Jun 92

["OANA/pool" Item]

[Text] Colombo, 19 Jun (LANKAPUVATH)—The motion to extend the emergency was passed in Parliament Thursday [18 June] by a majority of 64, with 119 voting for and 55 against.

The UNP [United National Party], EROS [Eelam Revolutionary Organization of Students], TELO [Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization] and SLMP [Sri Lanka Mahajana Party] voted for, while the MEP [Mahajana Eksath Peramuna], USA [United Socialist Alliance], EPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front] and the SLFP [Sri Lanka Freedom Party] voted against.

Security Forces 'Consolidating' in North, East

BK1806112892 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] The security forces are still consolidating in Senthakulam which was taken over by them last week. [sentence as heard] Colonel Sarath Munasinghe, military spokesman of the Joint Operations Command, told newsmen yesterday that the air force destroyed a powerful boat carrying four LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists off Point Pedro. A security vehicle was caught in a pressure mine explosion at Tellippalai in Jaffna on Tuesday. One soldier was killed and three injured. He pointed out that the security forces were also in the process of clearing the pressure mines and antipersonnel mines in the Tellippalai area laid by LTTE terrorists.

Meanwhile, the security forces are engaged in limited operations in the north and east. State Secretary to the Ministry of Reconstruction, Rehabilitation, and Social Welfare Dr. Raja Amarasekhera said the return of Sri Lankan refugees from South India has been suspended due to weather conditions. Two ships were under repair. The Indian authorities will resume repatriation next month.

'Many Terrorists' Killed at Batticaloa

BK1906113692 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1021 GMT 19 Jun 92

["OANA/Pool" Item]

[Text] Colombo, 19 Jun (LANKAPUVATH)—Many terrorists were reported killed as government troops Thursday [18 June] pursued and engaged a LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] group at Palamadu in the eastern Batticaloa District, and a LTTE camp was destroyed by the security forces, Thursday at Kimbulpitiya in the Trincomalee District.

The Joint Operations Command told LANKAPUVATH that a team of security forces in an ambush Thursday at Palamadu had observed a group of about 40-50 terrorists, moving about 400 metres away from the ambush site and pursued them with the assistance of a helicopter gunship.

According to ground troops and the pilot of the heli gunship many terrorists were killed due to the action of the ground troops and the helicopter gunship, but the numbers of the terrorist casualties cannot be confirmed at present.

Troops also recovered a canter truck, a stock of Arul hand grenades and a stock of rations.

On information received about a newly-built terrorist camp, government troops Thursday mounted an operation in Kimbulpitiya area, in Trincomalee.

Terrorists offered minor resistance during their advance towards the objective, but troops having neutralized the terrorists destroyed the camp which consisted 15 huts and two kitchens stocked with food items.

Japan Grants 593 Million Rupees for Food

BK1806114092 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] Japan will provide 593 million rupees to Sri Lanka under its food production grant. An agreement for the purpose was signed in Colombo yesterday by Japanese Ambassador Isamu Nitta and Finance Ministry Secretary R. Bhaskaralingam. A Japanese Embassy release said this was the 16th of the series of food production grants provided by the Government of Japan since 1977. The total of grants received since 1977 is 11,716 million rupees. The proceeds of these grants have immensely helped the Government of Sri Lanka in its drive toward self-sufficiency in agriculture during the last 15 years. The major items that have been provided under these grants were fertilizer and agricultural machinery. Fertilizer has become an essential component for the cultivation of different crops. The larger portions of this grant will be allocated to purchase fertilizer. The balance will be allocated to purchase additional agricultural equipment and machinery.

During the past 15 years, this grant has helped Sri Lanka to save foreign exchange which otherwise had to be spent on the import of fertilizer and agricultural equipment and machinery. Food production grants have been contributing to the development of agriculture in Sri Lanka, which have resulted in providing better yields and income to the average Sri Lankan farmer in the agricultural districts in the country. It is the firm hope of the Japanese Government that through its continuous assistance to Sri Lanka, the living conditions of all Sri Lankans will improve and that the friendly relations between the two countries will be further strengthened.